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THE
IOWA JOURNAL
OF
HISTORY AND POLITICS

JOHN ELY BRIGGS

EDITOR

RUTH A. GALLAHER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

VOLUME XL

1942

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRIVERS' LICENSE LAW IN IOWA¹

Not many decades separate 1942 from the "horse and buggy" era when the automobile was a curiosity and its driver was warned to come to a full stop and give assistance to the driver of a horse frightened by the horseless vehicle. In fact some of our contemporaries can hark back to the period of American life when no motor cars traversed our highways. In a little more than a generation this modern engine of transportation has become so common that there is now about one automobile for every three to four persons in these United States. From a thing of curiosity and luxury the automobile has developed into a necessity for the American no matter what his "walk of life" may be.

In 1900 only eight thousand automobiles were reported in the entire United States. Now there are more than thirty million motor vehicles, both passenger and commercial. The effect of such phenomenal increases has been to make long distances negligible and to bring regions formerly inaccessible within easy reach. As the automobile has increased in numbers so also its efficiency has become greater. Cars have been made more beautiful, faster, and more durable.

While one may state with finality that the benefits accruing to the people of this nation as a whole from the increase in automobiles are phenomenal, a problem of sinister implications has, at the same time, been created. In the hands of careless, incompetent, or indifferent drivers, the automo-

¹ This article was prepared as a doctoral dissertation and was submitted to the Graduate College of the State University of Iowa in August, 1938. It has been condensed, edited, and brought down to date.

bile has caused fatalities and accidents, and the fatalities have increased in proportion to the number of automobiles, the number of miles these cars are driven, and the growth in population.²

In 1911 deaths from automobile accidents in the United States were estimated at 2043. This was only three per cent of all accidental deaths in the country. By 1915, with some two and a half million motor vehicles, the United States reported almost four thousand fatalities due to car accidents, about five and a half for each 100,000 of the population. By 1920 almost ten million motor vehicles were registered in the United States which then had a population of 105,710,620. The automobile fatalities had risen to 10.4 for every 100,000 persons. In 1930 the United States counted 122,775,046 inhabitants and 26,545,281 motor vehicles. Accidents due to cars had increased the death toll to 29,080 in registration areas alone, or 24.5 deaths for each 100,000 people. This was 30 per cent of all accidental deaths in the United States.

Since 1930 the number of cars in the United States has increased more slowly. Deaths due to car accidents increased more rapidly than cars or population. The death toll for the United States in 1935 was 34,183, or 26.8 per 100,000 population. In 1939, 29,485,680 motor vehicles were registered in the United States, with 30,564 deaths reported as due to car accidents.

The most rapid increase in the number of motor vehicles in the United States came during the ten years preceding 1925. The number of accidents and fatalities, as might be expected, varies with the number of cars, although the ratio

²Data concerning motor vehicles and fatalities in the United States have been taken from various volumes of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. The figures for a given year sometimes vary slightly in different volumes. See also *Priority for Traffic Safety 1941* (Automotive Safety Foundation), p. 3.

is affected by other conditions, especially by the increase in traffic miles. It has been found that there is a mathematical increase in the danger of accidents as related to the number of cars. Where the highway mileage remains the same, doubling the number of cars will result in four times as many accidents. This rapid increase in the number and use of motor vehicles brought before State and local officials a new problem — one which has not yet been solved.

At first the drivers of automobiles were governed only under the general rules of the road, enforced by local police, constables, and sheriffs, but the fact that automobiles had a much larger range than horse-drawn vehicles soon made it evident that the States must take at least some of the responsibility. A motorist was not always a member of the community. He might live in a distant county or in a neighboring State. The arm of the law had to be longer. Gradually the regulation of automobiles and automobile traffic came into the orbit of State government. Automobiles called for better roads. Therefore a system of licensing motor vehicles soon came into use, both for the sake of identification and for revenue. The automobile, however, must have a driver and to fix the driver's responsibility a license to drive came into use.

In the enforcement of these various laws the authority of the State came into question. Cases at law grew out of challenges to the authority of the States to give or withhold the right to operate automobiles and to regulate their speed. Almost unanimously the courts have ruled that driving an automobile is a privilege and not a right and that the control of motor vehicles is a justifiable use of a State's police powers.³

But the regulation of automobile traffic soon proved to be

³ *Salberg v. Davenport*, 211 Iowa, 612; *People v. Diller*, 24 California Appellate Ds., 799; *State v. Sterrin*, 78 New Hampshire, 220; *People v. Rosenbermer*, 209 New York, 115; *Commonwealth v. Kingsbury*, 199 Massachusetts, 542.

an inter-State problem. At least the advantage of uniformity was recognized. The New England States were pioneers in the regulation of motor vehicle traffic. The first attempt in this direction came from the State of Maine.⁴ In 1915 the legislature authorized the Governor to appoint three commissioners who were to confer with other commissioners from the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. These commissioners were to consider the possibility of uniform laws for licensing drivers in the States they represented.

In 1924, the Federal Department of Commerce began to take an interest in this problem of uniformity in the licensing of motor vehicle operators. It called a National Conference on Street and Highway Safety to investigate the problem. Nation-wide agencies such as the American Automobile Association, the National Safety Council, and the American Railway Association coöperated with the Department of Commerce in organizing and financing the conference.

This conference made detailed studies of highway safety. Significant recommendations for licensing drivers were made by the Committee on Traffic Control and the Committee on Public Relations. The first group recommended a uniform drivers' licensing law, a minimum age limit, and adequate means of determining a driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle. The Committee on Public Relations advocated "nation-wide uniform practices" in the matter of licensing the automobile operator.⁵

In a conference held in 1926, a uniform code for the licensing of chauffeurs and operators was drawn up and

⁴ *Laws of Maine*, 1915, Ch. 327.

⁵ *Report of Committee on Street and Highway Safety, National Conference on Street and Highway Safety*, 1924, p. 11; *Report of Committee on Public Relations, National Conference on Street and Highway Safety*, 1924, p. 7.

adopted. The Committee on the Uniformity of Laws and Regulations reported that "safe, economical, and convenient use of the highways requires uniformity in state vehicle acts, and state administration regulations."⁶

Iowa has conformed to motor vehicle trends in the nation both as to the number of cars and fatalities. Automobiles came into Iowa with the twentieth century but it was more than ten years before their number attracted more than curious attention. The following table⁷ indicates the number of motor vehicles registered in Iowa, some data as to the number of accidents due to automobiles, and the number of deaths due to such accidents. Loss of time and expenditures for medical care are not recorded.

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS IN IOWA RELATIVE TO THE
NUMBER OF CARS REGISTERED

<i>Date</i>	<i>Motor Vehicles Registered</i>	<i>Accidents Reported</i>	<i>Fatalities</i>
1913	75,068	-----	80
1915	152,134	-----	129
1920	440,105	-----	161
1925	661,630	-----	261
1930	788,675	-----	619
1931	760,284	-----	582
1932	691,637	13,612	530
1933	636,379	13,268	546
1934	676,254	11,011	544
1935	709,691	10,335	575
1936	740,550	11,842	526
1937	760,634	13,977	571
1938	773,503	12,712	486
1939	805,525	14,981	530
1940	900,735	19,835	538

⁶ *Report of Committee on Uniformity of Laws and Regulations, National Conference on Street and Highway Safety, 1926, p. 9.*

⁷ Except for the fatality figures for 1913, 1915, and 1920, the data given in this table was furnished by Mr. Karl W. Fischer, Commissioner of Public Safety, Des Moines, in a communication dated October 7, 1941. The first three fatality figures were furnished by the Iowa Department of Health on October 20, 1941.

These figures indicate that the number of cars in Iowa approximately doubled between 1913 and 1915, increased three-fold during the next five years, and was one-third larger in 1925 than in 1920. Thereafter the number of cars increased only slowly. Indeed the number decreased slightly during the depression period of the early thirties, being 788,675 in 1930 and only 636,379 in 1933.

The death toll in Iowa follows the same general trend, but shows the greatest increase between 1925 and 1930, being almost three times as large in 1930 as in 1925, although there was no large increase either in population or number of cars. This increase was apparently connected with the increased mileage of paved and graveled roads, more travel, and the greater speed at which cars could be driven.

There is no record of the number of miles driven by the thousands of Iowa cars, but gasoline consumption is an approximate indication of traffic. In 1925, with 661,630 cars registered, Iowa gasoline consumption for traffic uses was approximately 208 million gallons. The fatalities numbered 261. Five years later the number of cars had increased to 788,675 or about 19 per cent, while gasoline consumption had increased to more than 382 million gallons, about 83 per cent. Fatalities had jumped to 619 or about 137 per cent. By 1935 the number of cars had decreased by about 10 per cent and gasoline consumption was down to about 302 million gallons, a decrease of about 21 per cent. The death record, however, was down only 7 per cent.

The increase in the number of cars and especially the increase in accidents and fatalities soon made Iowa officials realize that the old laws of the highway were no longer sufficient. Automobile drivers could no longer be controlled by county and municipal authorities. As early as April, 1904, the General Assembly passed a law "requiring regis-

tration of motor vehicles and regulating their use or operation upon highways or streets".⁸ Each owner of a car was required to file with the Secretary of State a statement of his name and address, with a description of the car. The filing fee was one dollar. The motor vehicle was then assigned a number which was to be displayed on a plate fixed to the back of the car. No one even thought of asking the owner or driver of the car whether he knew how to drive or not. In 1907 the fee for the registration of an automobile was raised to five dollars.⁹

In 1911 the Iowa General Assembly rewrote the law governing the operation of motor vehicles. That such means of transportation had achieved an economic status is evident from the fact that this law defined "chauffeurs". The owner was required to describe his automobile in detail. Two number plates were now required. The only limitation on the operator of an automobile was the provision that no person under fifteen years of age was permitted to operate or drive a motor vehicle unless accompanied by the owner.

Driving a car while intoxicated was made a misdemeanor and for a driver to leave the scene of a personal injury without giving his name and address and the number of his car to the injured person or to a police officer was made a felony. Conviction upon either of these charges was to be reported by the court to the Secretary of State, who, upon the recommendation of the court, was to suspend the registration of the motor vehicle which had been operated by the

⁸ *Laws of Iowa*, 1904, Ch. 53. The maximum speed in the built-up sections of cities and towns was ten miles per hour; in other places in towns, fifteen miles. An average speed of twenty miles an hour was fixed for country driving. At a signal from a person riding or driving a horse, team, or other domestic animals, the operator of an automobile was required to stop his car until the horse-drawn vehicle had passed, if the two travelers were going in opposite directions or, if going in the same direction, he was to use caution in passing the slower conveyance and give assistance if necessary.

⁹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1907, Ch. 68.

person convicted or his own car if he owned one and had been driving a car belonging to another person. If no appeal was taken or the conviction was upheld, the registration was to be revoked. A person operating any motor vehicle while his registration certificate was suspended or revoked was guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon a fourth conviction of a chauffeur or owner, the vehicle owned or used by the guilty person could not be re-registered for six months, and not thereafter except at the discretion of the Secretary of State.¹⁰

The enforcement of these provisions was left to the local officials and the regularly established courts and to the Secretary of State, and no special agency was established. The Secretary of State reported a "Clerk Auto M. Dept" at a salary of \$1200 a year, apparently under a blanket appropriation for clerical help.¹¹

As the work of keeping track of automobile registrations and delinquent drivers increased, the Secretary of State organized a Motor Vehicle Bureau within his office and in 1913 the General Assembly appropriated \$10,200 for salaries in the "Motor Vehicle Department".¹² The Secretary of State, however, listed the clerks and other employees engaged in this work under "Motor Vehicle Bureau".¹³

ATTEMPTS TO SECURE LEGISLATION ON DRIVERS' LICENSES

These earlier laws dealt with cars rather than with drivers. It was not until 1919 that the Iowa legislature gave direct attention to the licensing of drivers of automobiles. Chapter 275 of the acts of the Thirty-eighth Gen-

¹⁰ *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, Ch. 72.

¹¹ *The Iowa Official Register*, 1911-1912, p. 194; *Laws of Iowa*, 1911, p. 306.

¹² *Laws of Iowa*, 1913, p. 433, Joint Resolution No. 15. See also *Laws of Iowa*, 1917, pp. 327, 328.

¹³ *The Iowa Official Register*, 1913-1914, p. 184, 1915-1916, p. 176, 1917-1918, p. 127.

eral Assembly embodied new legislation relative to the "Licensing and Regulation of Motor Vehicles". Section 11 of that law provided that persons employed as chauffeurs should be required to secure a license. Any person might make application for such a license and set forth his qualifications on forms furnished by the Secretary of State. The applicant was required to state whether he was single or married, whether he had ever been convicted of a violation of the motor vehicle laws of the State or of intoxication during the year previous, and give his age, residence, color, and business. The license was not issued, however, until there was satisfactory evidence that the applicant was at least eighteen years of age and "a fit and proper person to receive such license".

Chapter 370 of the acts of the same session of the General Assembly provided that the word "chauffeur" should not apply "to employees engaged in operating motor trucks for persons, firms or corporations engaged in mercantile and agricultural enterprises." Hence the law with regard to licensing the operators of cars was very limited in its scope. The chauffeur's license fee at this time was \$2 annually. The law explained that where the word "department" was used, it meant the office of the Secretary of State.¹⁴

At the next session of the General Assembly, in 1921, a measure was introduced in the House of Representatives to provide for "the licensing of all motor vehicle drivers or operators". This measure was indefinitely postponed in the House and no further action was taken during that session.¹⁵ Although this law failed of passage the wording of the proposed measure indicates that regulation was coming

¹⁴ *Laws of Iowa*, 1919, Chs. 275, 370.

¹⁵ *House File*, 1921, No. 375; *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1921, pp. 515, 516.

more and more into public consciousness. Under the proposed law parents were required to sign with minors who made application for licenses. And provision was made for the revocation of licenses in punishment of offenses against the law.

In 1923 Senator J. O. Shaff introduced in the Fortieth General Assembly a measure to provide for operators' as well as chauffeurs' licenses. Application was to be made to the motor vehicle department, through the county treasurer. Each person was to be given a distinguishing number or mark and was to receive a certificate, including among other data, a description of the licensee. No fee was required for an operator's license. Section 3 of this measure provided that anyone operating a motor vehicle while in an intoxicated condition should be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be subject to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both fine and imprisonment. In addition to this the operator's license should be suspended for six months, and upon conviction of a second such offense the license was to be "revoked permanently". This measure, like the one in the previous session, however, failed of passage — being rejected in the Senate by a vote of twenty-four to four, twenty-one Senators, including the author of the bill, being listed as not voting. So the law remained as it was enacted in 1919.¹⁶

During the session of the Forty-first General Assembly in 1925 no measure was introduced dealing with the subject of drivers' licenses.¹⁷

In the Forty-second General Assembly, in 1927, Senator Shaff again introduced a bill "relating to the licensing of motor vehicle operators and chauffeurs", taken almost

¹⁶ *Senate File*, 1923, No. 391; *Journal of the Senate*, 1923, p. 1053.

¹⁷ *Historical and Classified Index to Legislative Bills*, 1925, pp. 22, 23.

verbatim from the uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' Licensing Act drafted in 1926. This measure was comprehensive in scope and would have gone far in codifying the law on this subject, if it had been enacted into law. But like the previous measure it was defeated in the Senate — the ayes being 16 and the nays 21.¹⁸

In the following session of the General Assembly (the Forty-third) Senator Shaff introduced his licensing measure a third time as Senate File 69. This act was similar to the one presented in 1927. Senator Shaff's measure also had additional support due to the fact that in his message to the legislature Governor John Hammill had specifically recommended the adoption of the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operator's and Chauffeur's License Act". Uniformity, he said, "will promote law observance, comfort and safety."

Senate File 264, a second bill by Senator Shaff, introduced on February 19th, and House File 275, identical bills, were finally substituted for Senator Shaff's original bill. For the first time, an operator-licensing measure passed the Senate by a vote of twenty-seven to seventeen, six members being absent or not voting. The House bill, introduced by Harry C. Paulson of Clinton County, on February 20th, was referred to the Committee on Motor Vehicles and Transportation. It was placed on the House calendar from which it was never taken. Senate File 264, the companion bill, was given the first and second readings in the House, but was lost in the Sifting Committee.¹⁹

THE FIRST DRIVERS' LICENSE LAW

In 1931 Senator L. H. Doran introduced two bills relating to the operators of motor vehicles. One of these was soon

¹⁸ *Senate File*, 1927, No. 149; *Journal of the Senate*, 1927, pp. 1192-1194.

¹⁹ *Senate File*, 1929, Nos. 69, 269; *House File*, 1929, No. 275; *Journal of the Senate*, 1929, p. 43; *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1929, pp. 421, 937, 1301.

withdrawn. The other was adopted by a vote of 37 to 6 in the Senate and 81 to 16 in the House.²⁰ The law²¹ thus enacted was comprehensive and detailed. All persons driving motor vehicles upon the highways must obtain licenses except persons driving road rollers, road machinery, farm tractors, or similar agricultural implements, and persons in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States who had official permits and were operating official motor vehicles. A non-resident over fifteen years of age duly licensed in his home State or country was exempt from the Iowa license requirement. Residents of States and countries in which operators' and chauffeurs' licenses were not required were permitted to drive cars registered for the current year in the State or country of their residence upon Iowa highways for a period of thirty days within the year without registration. Any person, whether non-resident or not, whose driver's license had been suspended or revoked under the act was, however, prohibited from operating a motor vehicle under a license from another jurisdiction, and no new license was to be granted during the period of suspension or for one year following revocation.

No license was to be issued to a person under fifteen except that a child fourteen years of age or over might, at the request of a parent or guardian, be given a license to drive to and from school. The application of a person under eighteen must be signed by his father, if living and having the custody of the minor, or otherwise by the mother or guardian, or in case there was no parent or legal guardian, by the employer. Chauffeurs must be at least eighteen years of age.

²⁰ *Journal of the Senate*, 1931, pp. 76, 77, 197, 201, 683, 1475, 1563; *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1931, pp. 902, 1705.

²¹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1931, Ch. 114.

No person, whether licensed or not, under the age of sixteen was permitted to drive a school bus and drivers of passenger-carrying buses must be at least twenty-one. Persons under fifteen were, however, still permitted to drive a car if accompanied by a person at least nineteen years of age. There was, apparently, no requirement that this older person must have a driver's license. Licenses were not to be issued to habitual drunkards, narcotic addicts, or persons who had been adjudged insane or an idiot, imbecile, epileptic, or feeble-minded unless such person had been restored to competency by court order or by release from an institution upon certificate from the superintendent that he was competent to carry on normal activities, but even in such cases the license could be withheld at the discretion of the Motor Vehicle Department.

Licenses were to be granted only upon examination "as to his physical and mental qualifications to operate a motor vehicle in such manner as not to jeopardize the safety of persons or property . . . but such examination shall not include investigation of any facts other than those directly pertaining to the ability of the applicant to operate a motor vehicle with safety, or other than those facts declared to be prerequisite to the issuance of a license under this act." Examinations might, however, be waived by the department in case of applications for renewals for either operators' or chauffeurs' licenses and for three months after the act took effect examinations might also be waived in case of a new applicant otherwise qualified who could furnish satisfactory evidence that he (or she) had satisfactorily operated a motor vehicle in Iowa for not less than a year.

Although these licenses came from the Motor Vehicle Department in the office of the Secretary of State, the Department was to designate local officers — county sheriffs,

chiefs of police, town marshals, or other persons — to take charge of the actual work of examination and investigation. This work was usually entrusted to county sheriffs. They were required to report their findings to the Motor Vehicle Department and might issue the licenses to residents of their counties or to non-residents. The Motor Vehicle Department was required to keep a record of all operators' and chauffeurs' licenses issued, denied, suspended, and revoked.

The license issued was to carry the number assigned to the license and contain data as to name, age, and residence, as well as a brief description of the person to whom it was issued. The licensee was to sign it. In addition to his license, a chauffeur was also to display a badge with his license number. The license was to be in the immediate possession of the licensee at all times when he was driving a car and was to be displayed upon demand.

The fee for an operator's license was twenty-five cents, for a chauffeur's license two dollars. Fifteen cents from the operator's fee and fifty cents from the chauffeur's fee was to be retained by the local office; the remainder went to the State Treasurer, "as provided for herein". Owners of motor vehicles were, however, to be granted individual operators' licenses without the payment of the fee. Operators' licenses were to be valid for two years, expiring on December thirty-first of odd-numbered years. Chauffeurs' licenses were good for only one year.

Detailed provisions were made for the suspension and revocation of such licenses on certain conditions. The maximum period of suspension was fixed at one year. Courts were required to forward to the Motor Vehicle Department a record of the conviction of any person for a violation of the laws of Iowa relative to the operation of motor vehicles, and might recommend the suspension or revocation of the

license of the person convicted. The Department, however, could use its discretion about following this recommendation except in certain specified cases.

The licenses of persons convicted of the following crimes must be revoked: manslaughter, resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle; driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a narcotic drug; perjury or making false affidavits under the motor vehicle act or any act regulating the use of motor vehicles; any crime punishable as a felony under the motor vehicle laws of Iowa or a felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle was used; conviction or forfeiture of bail upon three charges of reckless driving in the preceding twelve months; and conviction of a driver involved in the death or injury of another person upon a charge of failing to stop and disclose his identity at the scene of the accident.

Upon receiving a report of the conviction of a person upon a charge of operating a motor vehicle while his license was suspended or revoked, the Department was to extend the period of suspension or revocation for an additional like period. In the case of revocation this apparently meant the extension of the period before another license could be granted. Driving a car during the period for which one's license was suspended or revoked was made a misdemeanor and was to be punished accordingly.

In addition to the *must* revocations, the Department was authorized to suspend, at its discretion, the licenses of the following licensees: any person believed to have committed any of the crimes for which conviction made revocation mandatory, any person whose reckless or unlawful operation of a motor vehicle caused or contributed to accidents resulting in death or injury to any other person or serious property damage; any person believed to be mentally or physically incompetent to drive a car; or any person be-

lieved to be an habitual reckless or negligent driver. In such cases the licensee was to be notified of the suspension and afforded an opportunity for a hearing on the charge in the county of his residence. After such hearing the Department might rescind the suspension or it might add to the period of suspension or revoke the license entirely.

The Department was also authorized to suspend or revoke the right of a non-resident to operate a motor vehicle in Iowa for any cause for which the license of a resident might be suspended or revoked and a non-resident who operated a motor vehicle after such suspension or revocation was to be guilty of a misdemeanor. The Department might also suspend or revoke the license of an Iowa resident upon receiving notice of his or her conviction in another State for an offense which was a ground for such action under the Iowa law. The Department was further authorized to forward a certified copy of the record of the conviction of a non-resident to the proper authority in the State in which the person so convicted resided.

Upon suspension or revocation of either operators' or chauffeurs' licenses, the license must be surrendered and a chauffeur was required also to surrender his badge. Both badge and license were to be returned at the end of the suspension period. Following revocation, a new license was not to be issued or applied for until the expiration of one year from the date of revocation.

Any person refused a license or any person whose license was revoked for causes not made mandatory in the law was permitted to appeal within thirty days to a court of record in the county of his residence for a hearing. This hearing (in equity) was to be held "upon ten (10) days' written notice" to the Motor Vehicle Department. Following the hearing, the court was authorized to decide whether or not the applicant was entitled to a license.

Possession or display of a fictitious operator's or chauffeur's license or of such a license which had been cancelled, revoked, suspended, or altered was made unlawful as was lending a license or permitting the use of a license by another person, displaying a license not one's own, failing or refusing to surrender a license which had been revoked, suspended, or cancelled, and giving a false or fictitious name or address in applying for a license. It was also made unlawful to cause or knowingly permit an unlicensed person under eighteen years of age to drive a motor vehicle on the highway, to employ an unlicensed chauffeur, or to permit the illegal use of a motor vehicle.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRIVERS' LICENSE LAW

At the regular session in 1933 the General Assembly picked up a few loose ends in the 1931 drivers' license law. The "department" as used in the law was specifically defined as the "motor vehicle department of the state of Iowa under the secretary of state". The fees turned over to the State Treasurer were to be placed in the maintenance fund of the Motor Vehicle Department and the Department was authorized to expend these funds to carry the provisions of the act into effect. The fees for duplicate licenses had been the same as for the original licenses, but the 1933 amendment reduced the fee for a duplicate chauffeur's license to fifty cents — fifteen of which were retained by the county issuing the duplicate and thirty-five were to be sent to the Treasurer of State to be placed in the Motor Vehicle Department's maintenance fund.²²

The General Assembly also provided that all operators' licenses expiring on December 31, 1933, and not heretofore revoked were to be extended until December 31, 1935.²³

²² *Laws of Iowa*, 1933, Ch. 77; *Code of 1931*, Sec. 5000.

²³ *Laws of Iowa*, 1933, Ch. 81.

The statutory provisions concerning the form of the licenses were general, but the Motor Vehicle Department was given broad powers to promulgate rules and regulations. It was apparently under this authority that the Department issued the licenses with two detachable stubs, in addition to the main section. These could be removed one at a time. This form was possibly devised to fit the provision in the general law that three convictions for reckless driving meant loss of the license. In 1934 the General Assembly amended the drivers' license act to provide that in case revocation of the entire license was not mandatory, a court should, upon the conviction of an operator or chauffeur for minor offenses concerning the motor vehicle code, detach one stub of the license and send it to the Motor Vehicle Department as a record of the conviction.²⁴

In 1935 the General Assembly made another addition to the drivers' license law. Examiners appointed by the Department were given the authority of peace officers for the purpose of enforcing laws relating to motor vehicles and the operation of motor vehicles. This provision indicated that the Motor Vehicle Department had taken over the examination and investigation of applicants for drivers' licenses, as authorized by the phrase "or to appoint other persons within this state to act for the department for the purpose of examining applicants for operators' and chauffeurs' licenses." The next section in this law was possibly connected with the first. It amended the section concerning the transfer of drivers' license funds to the Department by adding "to be used for the purpose of making effective the uniform operators' and chauffeurs' license law". The exemption of the owner of a car from the payment of the

²⁴ *Laws of Iowa, 1933-1934, Special Session, Ch. 55; Code of 1931, Sec. 4960-D32.*

twenty-five cent fee was also removed and drivers' licenses which were, by a law passed in 1933, to expire on December 31, 1935, were now to expire on June 30, 1935.²⁵

THE PRESENT DRIVERS' LICENSE LAW

The Forty-seventh General Assembly enacted a comprehensive motor vehicle law.²⁶ This law is the basis for the sections on drivers' licenses in the *Code of 1939*, which are presented below. In 1939 the General Assembly created a Department of Public Safety, directly responsible to the Governor, with a Commissioner of Public Safety in charge, and transferred to the new Department, among other responsibilities, the licensing of operators of motor vehicles and chauffeurs. By another law the entire Motor Vehicle Department was transferred from the office of the Secretary of State to the newly created office of Commissioner of Public Safety.²⁷

The acts passed in 1937 and 1939 seem to have covered the field of drivers' licenses rather satisfactorily for only one change was made by the Forty-ninth General Assembly in 1941. These laws, as presented in the *Code of 1939*, Secs. 5013.01 to 5015.09, are presented below in ten point type, with some explanatory comments.

5013.01 *Operators and chauffeurs licensed.* No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless such person has a valid license as an operator or chauffeur issued by the department of public safety. No person shall operate a motor vehicle as a chauffeur unless he holds a valid chauffeur's license.

5013.02 *Chauffeurs exempted as operators.* Any person holding a valid chauffeur's license hereunder need not procure an operator's license.

²⁵ *Laws of Iowa*, 1935, Ch. 46.

²⁶ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Secs. 205-255.

²⁷ *Laws of Iowa*, 1939, Ch. 120, Secs. 32, 33, 41-46, and Ch. 121.

5013.03 *Persons exempt.* The following persons are exempt from license hereunder:

1. Any person while operating a motor vehicle in the service of the army, navy, or marine corps of the United States;

2. Any person while driving or operating any road machine, farm tractor, or implement of husbandry temporarily operated or moved on a highway;

3. A nonresident who is at least sixteen years of age and who has in his immediate possession a valid operator's license issued to him in his home state or country may operate a motor vehicle in this state only as an operator;

4. A nonresident who is at least eighteen years of age and who has in his immediate possession a valid chauffeur's license issued to him in his home state or country may operate a motor vehicle in this state either as an operator or chauffeur except any such person must be licensed as a chauffeur hereunder before accepting employment as a chauffeur from a resident of this state;

5. Any nonresident who is at least eighteen years of age, whose home state or country does not require the licensing of operators, may operate a motor vehicle as an operator only, for a period of not more than ninety days in any calendar year, if the motor vehicle so operated is duly registered in the home state or country of such nonresident.

5013.04 *Persons not to be licensed.* The department shall not issue any license hereunder:

1. To any person, as an operator, who is under the age of sixteen years, except that the department may issue a restricted license as provided in section 5013.19 to any person who is at least fourteen years of age;

2. To any person, as a chauffeur, who is under the age of eighteen years, [except that the department may issue to any person over the age of sixteen (16) years a license to operate a light delivery truck, panel delivery truck or pickup];²⁸

3. To any person, as an operator or chauffeur whose license or driving privilege has been suspended during such suspension or to any person whose license, or driving privilege, has been revoked, until the expiration of one year after such revocation;

²⁸ The material in the brackets was added in 1941.—*Laws of Iowa*, 1941, Ch. 173.

4. To any person, as an operator or chauffeur, who is an habitual drunkard, or is addicted to the use of narcotic drugs;

5. To any person, as an operator or chauffeur, who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application been restored to competency by the methods provided by law;

6. To any person, as an operator or chauffeur, who is required by this chapter to take an examination, unless such person shall have successfully passed such examination;

7. To any person when the commissioner has good cause to believe that such person by reason of physical or mental disability would not be able to operate a motor vehicle with safety upon the highways.

5013.05 *Special restrictions on chauffeurs.* No person who is under the age of twenty-one years shall drive any motor vehicle while in use as a carrier of flammables or combustibles, or as a public or common carrier of persons, except a school bus.²⁹

5013.06 *Instruction permits.* Any person who, except for his lack of instructions in operating a motor vehicle, would otherwise be qualified to obtain an operator's license under this chapter, may apply for a temporary instruction permit, and the department shall issue such permit, entitling the applicant, while having such permit in his immediate possession, to drive a motor vehicle upon the highways for a period of sixty days, but, except when operating a motorcycle, such person must be accompanied by a licensed operator or chauffeur who is actually occupying a seat beside the driver.

In 1940 the Department of Public Safety construed the law as it appears in Sections 5013.06 and 5013.12 of the Code as including persons applying for limited operators' licenses. Previous to this interpretation, a driver's permit for a school child, for example, was issued without a preliminary instruction period or examination.³⁰

5013.07 *Temporary permit.* The department may, in its discretion, issue a temporary driver's permit to an applicant for an

²⁹ Persons sixteen years of age or over may drive school buses but must have special chauffeurs' licenses.— *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5032.04.

³⁰ Information from Karl W. Fischer, Commissioner of Public Safety, December 13, 1941.

operator's license permitting him to operate a motor vehicle while the department is completing its investigation and determination of all facts relative to such applicant's right to receive an operator's license. Such permit must be in his immediate possession while operating a motor vehicle, and it shall be invalid when the applicant's license has been issued or for good cause has been refused.

When new licenses were issued in the summer of 1941 Section 5013.07 was used as the basis for issuing interim licenses to extend the driving privilege of persons applying for renewal of licenses, pending receipt of the new licenses.

5013.08 *Application for license or permit.* Every application for an instruction permit or for an operator's or chauffeur's license shall be made upon a form furnished by the department and shall be verified by the applicant before a person authorized to administer oaths, and officers and employees of the department are hereby authorized to administer such oaths without charge.

5013.09 *Contents of application.* Every said application shall state the full name, age, sex, and residence address of the applicant, and briefly describe the applicant, and shall state whether the applicant has theretofore been licensed as an operator or chauffeur, and, if so, when, and by what state or country, and whether any such license has ever been suspended or revoked, or whether an application has ever been refused, and, if so, the date of and reason for such suspension, revocation, or refusal.

5013.10 *Applications of minors.* The application of any person under the age of eighteen years for an instruction permit or operator's license shall be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths by both the father and mother of the applicant, if both are living and have custody of him, or in the event neither parent is living then by the person or guardian having such custody or by an employer of such minor.

5013.11 *Death of person signing application — effect.* The department upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of the death of the persons who signed the application of a minor for a license shall cancel such license and shall not issue a new license until such time as a new application, duly signed and verified, is made as required

by this chapter. This provision shall not apply in the event the minor has attained the age of eighteen years.

5013.12 *Examination of new or incompetent operators.* The department may examine every new applicant for an operator's or chauffeur's license³¹ or any person holding a valid operator's or chauffeur's license when the department has reason to believe that such person may be physically or mentally incompetent to operate a motor vehicle. Such examinations shall be held in every county within periods not to exceed fifteen days. It shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight, his ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic, his knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and shall include an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle and such further physical and mental examinations as the department finds necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways.

5013.13 *Appointment of examiners.* The department is hereby authorized to appoint persons from the highway patrol or may designate the county sheriff³² for the purpose of examining applicants for operators' and chauffeurs' licenses. It shall be the duty of any such person so appointed to conduct examinations of applicants for operators' and chauffeurs' licenses under the provisions of this chapter to make a written report of findings and recommendations upon such examination to the department. Examiners appointed by the department shall have the authority of peace officers for the purpose of enforcing the laws relating to motor vehicles and the operation thereof, and when on duty shall wear a uniform and proper identifying badge or badges as prescribed by the commissioner which shall be purchased by the department and paid for from the department maintenance fund.

5013.14 *Licenses issued.* The department shall upon payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying therefor an operator's or chauffeur's license as applied for, which license shall bear thereon a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee the full name, age, residence address and a brief description of the

³¹ For administrative interpretation of this provision, see the comment following Sec. 5013.06.

³² Although this section authorizes the designation of county sheriffs as examiners, this work is now done entirely by the Highway Patrol.

licensee, and spaces upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the licensee.

The department shall issue with every chauffeur's license a chauffeur's badge of metal with a plainly readable distinguishing number assigned to the licensee stamped thereon and every chauffeur shall display such chauffeur's badge in plain sight upon the band of his cap or upon the lapel of his outer coat while operating a motor vehicle as a public or common carrier of persons or property.

Due to scarcity of metals needed in defense industries, the Department in 1941 was directed by the Executive Council to discontinue the issuing of chauffeurs' badges for the year 1942. A statement that badges were not issued was printed on the chauffeur's license for 1942, so that the chauffeur may not be held for failure to produce a badge in case a local officer is unaware of the change. This change was made only after the Department had ascertained from the chauffeurs themselves that such badges were frequently lost. In 1941 chauffeurs paid some \$1,500 for duplicate badges. Lost badges if found by irresponsible or criminally inclined persons were a possible aid in accomplishing a crime. Law enforcement officers, on their part, relied on the license rather than the badge to check the chauffeur's registration.³³

5013.15 *Carried and exhibited.* Every licensee shall have his operator's or chauffeur's license in his immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle and shall display the same, upon demand of a justice of peace, a peace officer, or a field deputy or examiner of the department. However, no person charged with violating this section shall be convicted if he produces in court, within a reasonable time, an operator's or chauffeur's license theretofore issued to him and valid at the time of his arrest.

5013.16 *Fee.* The fee for an operator's license shall be fifty cents. The fee for a chauffeur's license shall be two dollars.

³³ Information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

5013.17 *Disposal of fees.* Such license fees shall be forwarded by the department to the treasurer of state who shall place same in the general fund of the state, provided that for each operator's license issued by a county sheriff for which a license fee is paid, the sheriff issuing the same shall be entitled to retain the sum of fifteen cents and for each chauffeur's license, the sum of fifty cents, which shall be credited to the county general fund.

The law of 1937 (Ch. 134, Sec. 223) provided that such license funds were to be placed by the State Treasurer in the maintenance fund of the Motor Vehicle Department to be used for the administration and enforcement of the drivers' license law. In 1939 (Ch. 120, Sec. 43) this allocation of funds was dropped. Since the General Assembly made no provision that county sheriffs should issue such licenses, the allocation of funds to the county general fund is inoperative. It was, apparently, merely carried over from the earlier law.

5013.18 *Restricted licenses.* The department upon issuing an operator's or chauffeur's license shall have authority whenever good cause appears to impose restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of vehicle or special mechanical control devices required on a motor vehicle which the licensee may operate or such other restrictions applicable to the licensee, including licenses issued under section 5013.19, as the department may determine to be appropriate to assure the safe operation of a motor vehicle by the licensee.

The department may either issue a special restricted license or may set forth such restrictions upon the usual license form.

The department may upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the restrictions of such license suspend or revoke the same but the licensee shall be entitled to a hearing as upon a suspension or revocation under this chapter.

It is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in section 5036.01, for any person to operate a motor vehicle in any manner in violation of the restrictions imposed in a restricted license issued to him.

5013.19 *Minors.* Upon a written request of a parent or guardian, a restricted license may be issued to any person between the

ages of fourteen and sixteen years, to be valid only in going to and from school.

5013.20 *Duplicate certificates and badges.*³⁴ In the event that an instruction permit or operator's or chauffeur's license or chauffeur's badge issued under the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the same was issued may upon payment of a fee of fifty cents for a chauffeur's license or badge or twenty-five cents for an operator's license, obtain a duplicate, or substitute thereof, upon furnishing proof satisfactory to the department that such permit, license, or badge has been lost or destroyed.

5013.21 *Expiration of operator's license.* Every operator's license shall expire on July 5 of each odd-numbered calendar year and shall be renewed upon its expiration upon application, and examination, and payment of the license fee specified herein, provided that persons holding licenses previously issued and upon which no notation appears of a traffic violation, against whom no accident has been reported, or from which no stub has been detached for any reason shall be issued an operator's license without examination.

5013.22 *Expiration of chauffeur's license.* Every chauffeur's license issued hereunder shall expire December 31 each year and shall be renewed annually upon application and examination, and payment of the fees required by law, provided that the department in its discretion may waive the examination of any such applicant previously licensed as a chauffeur under this chapter.

5013.23 *Records.* The department shall file every application for a license received by it and shall maintain suitable indexes containing, in alphabetical order:

1. All applications denied and on each thereof note the reasons for such denial;
2. All applications granted; and
3. The name of every licensee whose license has been suspended or revoked by the department and after each such name note the reasons for such action.

5013.24 *Conviction and accident file.* The department shall also file all accident reports and abstracts of court records of convictions received by it under the laws of this state and in connection therewith maintain convenient records or make suitable nota-

³⁴ See the comment following Section 5013.14.

tions in order that an individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee and the traffic accidents in which he has been involved shall be readily ascertainable and available for the consideration of the department upon any application for renewal of license and at other suitable times.

CANCELLATION, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES

5014.01 *Authority to cancel license.* The department is hereby authorized to cancel any operator's or chauffeur's license upon determining that the licensee was not entitled to the issuance thereof hereunder or that said licensee failed to give the required or correct information in his application or committed any fraud in making such application.

5014.02 *Surrender of license and badge.* Upon such cancellation, the licensee must surrender the license so canceled and any chauffeur's badge to the department.

5014.03 *Suspending privileges of nonresidents.* The privilege of driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a nonresident hereunder shall be subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like cause as an operator's or chauffeur's license issued hereunder may be suspended or revoked.

5014.04 *Certification of conviction.* The department is further authorized, upon receiving a record of the conviction in this state of a nonresident driver of a motor vehicle of any offense under the motor vehicle laws of this state, to forward a certified copy of such record to the motor vehicle administrator in the state wherein the person so convicted is a resident.

5014.05 *Conviction in another state.* The department is authorized to suspend or revoke the license of any resident of this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of such person in another state of an offense therein which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of an operator or chauffeur.

5014.06 *Surrender of license — duty of court.* Whenever any person is convicted of any offense for which this chapter makes mandatory the revocation of the operator's or chauffeur's license of such person by the department, the court in which such conviction is had shall require the surrender to it of all operator's and

chauffeur's licenses then held by the person so convicted and the court shall thereupon forward the same together with a record of such conviction to the department.

5014.07 *Record forwarded.* Every court having jurisdiction over offenses committed under this chapter, or any other law of this state regulating the operation of motor vehicles on highways, shall forward to the department a record of the conviction of any person in said court for a violation of any said laws, and may recommend the suspension of the operator's or chauffeur's license of the person so convicted, and the department shall thereupon consider and act upon such recommendation in such manner as may seem to it best. Upon conviction in all cases where recommendation of suspension or revocation is not made or is not mandatory, every court shall detach one stub of the license of such operator or chauffeur and forward same to the department.

5014.08 "*Conviction*" *defined.* For the purpose of this chapter the term "conviction" shall mean a final conviction. Also for the purposes of this chapter a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, shall be equivalent to a conviction.

The Department revokes licenses only when mandatory provisions of the Code require it. In the suspension of licenses the Department makes a distinction between punitive and safety cases. Licenses are suspended as punitive measures only when this is recommended by a court. In other cases suspension is used as a safeguard against possible accidents.³⁵ Since the drivers' licenses for 1941-1943 have no stubs attached, the provision in Section 5014.07 concerning the detaching of stubs is inoperative. These stubs were in the first place added only as an administrative detail and are not required by law.

5014.09 *Mandatory revocation.* The department shall forthwith revoke the license of any operator or chauffeur, or driving privilege, upon receiving a record of such operator's or chauffeur's conviction of any of the following offenses, when such conviction has become final:

³⁵ Information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

1. Manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle;

2. Driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a narcotic drug;

3. Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used;

4. Failure to stop and render aid as required under the laws of this state in the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death or personal injury of another;

5. Perjury or the making of a false affidavit or statement under oath to the department under this chapter or under any other law relating to the ownership or operation of motor vehicles;

6. Conviction, or forfeiture of bail not vacated, upon three charges of reckless driving committed within a period of twelve months.

5014.10 *Authority to suspend.* The department is hereby authorized to suspend the license of an operator or chauffeur without preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee:

1. Has committed an offense for which mandatory revocation of license is required upon conviction;

2. Is an habitually reckless or negligent driver of a motor vehicle;

3. Is an habitual violator of the traffic laws;

4. Is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle;

5. Has permitted an unlawful or fraudulent use of such license; or

6. Has committed an offense in another state which if committed in this state would be grounds for suspension or revocation.

The Department of Public Safety now delegates to each officer in the Department authority to enter an order for the suspension of a license in the field for the first, fourth, and fifth reasons. In other cases action must be from the office at Des Moines. In all cases hearings are provided.³⁶

5014.11 *Notice and hearing.* Upon suspending the license of any person as hereinbefore authorized the department shall immediately notify the licensee in writing and upon his request shall

³⁶ Information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

afford him an opportunity for a hearing before the commissioner or his duly authorized agent as early as practical within not to exceed twenty days after receipt of such request in the county wherein the licensee resides unless the department and the licensee agree that such hearing may be held in some other county. Upon such hearing the commissioner or his duly authorized agent may administer oaths and may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant books and papers and may require a re-examination of the licensee. Upon such hearing the department shall either rescind its order of suspension or, good cause appearing therefor, may extend the suspension of such license or revoke such license.

5014.12 *Period of suspension or revocation.* The department shall not suspend a license for a period of more than one year and upon revoking a license shall not in any event grant application for a new license until the expiration of one year after such revocation.

In February, 1939, the Iowa Attorney General ruled that the pardoning power of the Governor does not extend to cases of suspension or revocation of drivers' licenses, but this opinion was not supported by the Supreme Court.³⁷

5014.13 *Surrender of license and badge.* The department upon suspending or revoking a license shall require that such license and the badge of any chauffeur whose license is suspended or revoked shall be surrendered to and be retained by the department except that at the end of the period of suspension such license and any chauffeur's badge so surrendered shall be returned to the licensee.

5014.14 *No operation under foreign license.* Any resident or nonresident whose operator's or chauffeur's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended or revoked as provided in this chapter shall not operate a motor vehicle in this state under a license, permit, or registration certificate issued by any other state or country or otherwise during such suspension or after such revocation until a new license is obtained when and as permitted under this chapter.

³⁷ *Biennial Report of the Attorney General, 1938-1940*, pp. 78, 79; *Slager v. Olson*, September 16, 1941.

5014.15 *Appeal.* Any person denied a license or whose license has been canceled, suspended, or revoked by the department except where such cancellation or revocation is mandatory under the provisions of this chapter shall have the right to file a petition within thirty days thereafter for a hearing in the matter in a court of record in the county wherein such person shall reside and such court is hereby vested with jurisdiction and it shall be its duty to set the matter for hearing upon thirty days written notice to the commissioner, and thereupon the court shall hear and determine the matter as an original proceeding upon a transcript of all the proceedings before the commissioner, and upon additional evidence and other pleadings as the court may require. The decision of the court shall be final.

VIOLATION OF LICENSE PROVISIONS

5015.01 *Unlawful use of license.* It is a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in section 5036.01 unless another punishment is otherwise provided, for any person:

1. To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in his possession any canceled, revoked, suspended, fictitious or fraudulently altered operator's or chauffeur's license;

2. To lend his operator's or chauffeur's license to any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

3. To display or represent as one's own any operator's or chauffeur's license not issued to him;

4. To fail or refuse to surrender to the department upon its lawful demand any operator's or chauffeur's license which has been suspended, revoked, or canceled;

5. To use a false or fictitious name in any application for an operator's or chauffeur's license or to knowingly make a false statement or to knowingly conceal a material fact or otherwise commit a fraud in any such application;

6. To permit any unlawful use of an operator's or chauffeur's license issued to him.

5015.02 *Perjury.* Any person who makes any false affidavit, or knowingly swears or affirms falsely to any matter or thing required by the terms of this chapter to be sworn to or affirmed, is guilty of perjury and upon conviction shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment as other persons committing perjury are punishable.

5015.03 *Driving while license denied, suspended, or revoked.*

Any person whose operator's or chauffeur's license, or driving privilege, has been denied, canceled, suspended or revoked as provided in this chapter, and who drives any motor vehicle upon the highways of this state while such license or privilege is denied, canceled, suspended, or revoked, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than two days or more than thirty days. The sentence imposed under this section shall not be suspended by the court, notwithstanding the provisions of section 3800 or any other provision of statute.

5015.04 *Permitting unauthorized minor to drive.* No person shall cause or knowingly permit his child or ward under the age of eighteen years to drive a motor vehicle upon any highway when such minor is not authorized hereunder or in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.

5015.05 *Permitting unauthorized person to drive.* No person shall authorize or knowingly permit a motor vehicle owned by him or under his control to be driven upon any highway by any person who is not authorized hereunder or in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter.

5015.06 *Employing unlicensed chauffeur.* No person shall employ as a chauffeur of a motor vehicle any person not then licensed as provided in this chapter.

5015.07 *Renting motor vehicle to another.* No person shall rent a motor vehicle to any other person unless the latter person is then duly licensed hereunder or, in the case of a nonresident, then duly licensed under the laws of the state or country of his residence except a nonresident whose home state or country does not require that an operator be licensed.

5015.08 *License inspected.* No person shall rent a motor vehicle to another until he has inspected the operator's or chauffeur's license of the person to whom the vehicle is to be rented and compared and verified the signature thereon with the signature of such person written in his presence.

5015.09 *Record kept.* Every person renting a motor vehicle to another shall keep a record of the registration number of the motor vehicle so rented, the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle is rented, the number of the license of said latter person and the date and place when and where said license was issued. Such record shall be open to inspection by any police officer or officer or employee of the department.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRIVERS' LICENSE LAWS

The act passed in 1931 provided for the licensing of motor vehicle operators and chauffeurs by the State, but it was apparently anticipated that most of the actual work would be performed by the local officers and that the work in the office of the Secretary of State would be largely clerical and no special division or bureau was established by the legislature to handle the work.

When this act went into effect on January 1, 1932, there was already a Motor Vehicle Department in the office of the Secretary of State, and this Department had a staff of inspectors whose duty it was to enforce the laws concerning the loads carried by trucks and other laws concerning the operation of motor vehicles on the highways. It was these inspectors whom Mrs. Miller put in uniform in 1933. With the addition of the new responsibility of drivers' licenses, the Secretary of State enlarged the Motor Vehicle Department to include this work, and in 1935 a Drivers' License Division was organized.

When the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol³⁸ was created in 1935, it too was assigned to the office of the Secretary of State and included in the Motor Vehicle Department. The same session of the General Assembly provided that examiners appointed by the Motor Vehicle Department should have the authority of peace officers. It was not until 1937, however, that the three lines of work — motor vehicle registration, drivers' licenses, and the Highway Patrol — were integrated to avoid conflict and duplication. Under this consolidation the Highway Patrol took over the drivers' license examiners. Service as an examiner, as well as in the Patrol, was counted in fixing salaries. Under this law the Department was also authorized to appoint persons

³⁸ For an account of the Iowa Highway Patrol see Walter E. Kaloupek's *The History and Administration of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 339-386.

from the Highway Patrol for the purpose of giving examinations for operators' and chauffeurs' licenses. While employed in this work the patrolmen wore their regular uniforms and lost none of their authority as peace officers.³⁹

When the Department conducted its second winter camp at Fort Des Moines in February, 1937, the program included suggestions for the drivers' license examiners as well as other patrolmen. The program included lectures on such subjects as public relations, procedure in court, the drivers' license law, examinations and reports, and hearings involving licenses. One of the lecturers was Ed Murray, then chief examiner of the Drivers' License Division.

From the beginning persons appointed as drivers' license examiners have been high-class individuals. Most of them have had at least some college training. Many are college graduates. Courtesy and the importance of safety have always been emphasized.

Under the law of 1939 which transferred the drivers' license work from the office of the Secretary of State to the newly created Department of Public Safety, the Commissioner of Public Safety was given the responsibility of enforcing the laws covering the operation of motor vehicles and became the head of the Highway Patrol, the Drivers' License Division, and the Motor Vehicle Registration Division. The Department was also given charge of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, the work of the Fire Marshal, the police radio communication system, and the Motor Vehicle Accident Statistics Division. It also took over some of the work formerly carried on by the Iowa Safety Council, a private organization which had been carrying on educational activities in Iowa.⁴⁰ This

³⁹ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Secs. 41, 219.

⁴⁰ Information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941. See also *Code of 1939*, Sec. 1225.21.

work was put in charge of a Division of Safety Education. Thus almost complete control of all activities involving motor vehicles and their drivers was given to the Commissioner of Public Safety. This integration has eliminated duplication of records and collects all information in one department.

The concentration of authority makes the office of Commissioner of Public Safety very important. Under the law of 1939 he is appointed by the Governor with the approval of two-thirds of the Senate for a term of four years. He must be a man of "high moral character", "of good standing" in his home community, and of recognized executive capacity. He must also have been a resident of Iowa for five years prior to his appointment.⁴¹ The first appointee to this important office was Karl W. Fischer who is still serving.

The Iowa law has continued to safeguard patrolmen (including those who give examinations for drivers' licenses) by prohibiting the dismissal of any member of the Patrol who had served six months except for good cause.

For the purpose of administration of the drivers' license law, the State was divided into districts, with a drivers' license examiner assigned to each district. There are now fifteen districts, the size being determined by the population. The smallest district in area is Polk County. Each examiner will, it is planned, be able to cover the entire area within six days. As members of the Iowa Highway Safety Patrol, these examiners are effectively insulated from politics.⁴²

In the beginning the examination for the ordinary oper-

⁴¹ *Code of 1939*, Sec. 1225.07.

⁴² Politics, said Mr. Lew E. Wallace, head of the Department of Motor Vehicles, "had no place in the Highway Safety Patrol".—*The Des Moines Register*, May 5, 1935. Mr. Karl W. Fischer is equally emphatic on the point of "no politics".

ator's license was very superficial if it was given at all. The county sheriff was usually busy and the examination consisted of any questions he happened to think of at the moment. Often no questions were asked or answered. At most the number did not usually exceed twelve.⁴³ The following were typical: (1) Have you ever been involved in an accident?; (2) What is the make of your car?; (3) How many years have you driven a car?; and (4) Have you ever been arrested on a charge of intoxication?

The laws of the Forty-seventh General Assembly, however, made the specific requirement that such examinations should include tests of the applicant's ability to read, his vision, his ability to understand highway signs, and his knowledge of traffic laws. Under recent laws and administrative procedure the examination of would-be drivers has become more than a perfunctory form. Drivers in the early days learned the motor vehicle laws piecemeal as their driving experience increased. Sometimes they remained ignorant of the most important traffic rules. It is now required that even beginners who are just learning to drive be familiar with the rules of traffic.

It was urged by members of the Department of Motor Vehicles in 1937 that all drivers should be examined before receiving licenses, but to have insisted upon the examination of drivers of long experience might have aroused a great deal of opposition and hostility to the general idea of requiring drivers' licenses and the whole system might have been endangered. Sometime in the future, no doubt, all drivers will have been examined, through continued testing of the new drivers if not by additional legislative requirements.

Those who must, under the present law, submit to a test

⁴³ *Report on a Survey of Administration in Iowa* (prepared by the Brookings Institution in 1933), p. 35; conference with Mr. Horace Tate, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, August, 1937, Des Moines.

of their qualifications and abilities to drive can be grouped into the following classifications. The most important group is made up of new drivers, including those requesting school permits. An applicant wishing to receive instructions is given an instructor's permit good for sixty days to learn to handle his car. While driving under this permit he must be accompanied by a licensed driver or chauffeur.⁴⁴ Another group is made up of those whose licenses have been suspended because of some violation of the law or for some other reason. Their permits to operate an automobile or a truck may be restored only after an examination. Closely related to the group just described are those whose licenses have been revoked. Persons who have had licenses but have failed to renew them at the proper time must also take the examinations.

A person in any of these groups must present himself to the testing official, make an application, and pay a fee as he did in the first place. Each applicant is asked whether or not his license has ever been suspended or revoked. If the reply is "yes", additional questions are asked as to when, where, and why it happened. If the applicant answers "no" falsely, his record in the Department files will reveal this, when the card is taken out for the addition of new data, and the applicant may be punished under Sections 5014.09 (5) and 5015.02 of the Code.⁴⁵

A non-resident of Iowa, sixteen years of age or over, with a valid operator's license from another State, may operate a motor vehicle in Iowa. A non-resident who is eighteen years of age or over who comes from a State which does not require a driver's license may also drive a vehicle registered in his home State for a period of ninety

⁴⁴ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 210.

⁴⁵ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 243; information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

days. After that time he must secure an Iowa license. A chauffeur from another State employed in Iowa by a resident of Iowa must be examined for a license even though he may hold a valid license from his home State.⁴⁶

When the driver appears for an examination, the first thing that the examiner does is to look over the vehicle in which the operator is to demonstrate his driving ability. Inspection of the lights, both front and rear, and the rear-view mirror is the first step. In the case of a truck the process includes inspection checks on the safety equipment and the width of the vehicle. If there are any defects the testing officer recommends that corrections be made before any other phases of the test are begun. The Department holds that the automobile or truck must be in proper condition before the efficiency of the operator can be properly tested. From personal observations on the part of the writer it can be said that in practically all cases the examiner was thorough and impartial in his inspection.

A person's ability to drive is demonstrated on a course laid out by the Department. The situations which the Department of Public Safety and the Drivers' License Division consider necessary in determining driving ability include the following:

- (1) Ability of the driver to start his car with ease as well as his ability to move his car out of a parking space.
- (2) Ability of the driver to use his service or foot brake. This takes place upon a signal of the examiner when the vehicle has reached a speed of twenty miles per hour.
- (3) Response to traffic signals along the testing course. In this situation the use of hand signals is also noted.
- (4) Stopping on a hill (if one is in the course of the driving test) and applying the emergency or hand brake.
- (5) Starting from a dead stop on a hill without killing the motor.

⁴⁶ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 207.

There have been a number of criticisms concerning the driving test. One has been that the presence of the examiner in the car has an effect upon the driver that otherwise he would be free from. For example, one operator taking the driving examination thought the officer was trying to trip him up in his reactions. The driver did the opposite of every direction he was given. In no other part of the examination is the personality of the examiner so likely to influence the applicant. A second criticism arises out of the contention that even a poor driver can handle a car safely most of the time and his bad driving may not become apparent in a short road test.⁴⁷

Another criticism is that it is impossible to give the same kind of a road test to all applicants under the same conditions since terrain and population vary. But in defense of the method of testing driving ability, one can say that it is as efficient as it can be.

The use of mechanical equipment for testing the driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle would eliminate those human factors that may have some effect upon the outcome of the test. Professor A. H. Lauer, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, has developed a device that places the applicant in a driver's seat (with wheel, gear, clutch, and brake). Before him there moves a belt that has all the appearance of a highway, upon which various situations are portrayed. As this moving belt brings these situations to the would-be driver his reactions are recorded by the tester as the subject adjusts himself to the circumstances on the pseudo-highway.⁴⁸ The Department of Public Safety has purchased

⁴⁷ *House Executive Documents*, No. 368, 75th Congress, 1st Session, pp. 33, 34.

⁴⁸ Similar devices have been created by Dr. Harry De Silva, Harvard Bureau of Traffic Research. As early as 1913 Professor Hugo Munstenberg of Harvard University devised testing skills for measuring ability to drive an electric car. — *House Executive Documents*, No. 368, 75th Congress, 1st Session, p. 34.

experimental equipment costing about \$5,000 which is being used in testing persons who volunteer to take the test. It is hoped that these tests will indicate certain norms or average reactions which may be used later in testing drivers whose ability to drive is questioned or those who have had accidents.⁴⁹

The important feature in machines for measuring driving ability is mainly in the fact that all people get the same kind of test without the influences of human personality perhaps affecting the score. These devices are not new but the most logical reason for not using them is the large and important one of cost. From the standpoint of efficiency in the testing itself such a device would be of great value.

The first test of the motor vehicle laws used by the State examiners was oral. This was none too satisfactory and just a year later, in 1936, a written examination of the road rules was substituted. The principal reason for the change to the written test was a need for speeding up the examination procedure. Furthermore the test which required written answers tended to eliminate the personal factor. As in the driving test just referred to it is highly probable that in oral examinations the personality of the examiner had its influence upon the person being tested.

The 1937 drivers' license general examination questions were quite formidable. The thirty-three items in this test covered all four sides of a single fold of paper 8½ x 11 inches. Some of the questions were long and intricate and many of them were confusing. For example the first question of the 1937 examination was:

“Does the Iowa law require the licensee to have in his immediate possession his instruction permit, school permit, or chauffeur's license when operating a motor vehicle?” The applicant was to answer “yes” or “no”. The problem

⁴⁹ Information from Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

is so worded that some applicants might be led to give the wrong answer because of the poor statement of the question.

The later examinations, however, show some improvement over the one just discussed. Instead of the multitude of questions, the number in the most recent test studied is only seventeen. The wording is simple. There are no "yes" or "no" questions. The questions are printed on two sides of a single sheet of paper 6½ x 11 inches in dimension and are based primarily upon an *Iowa Driver's Guide* which summarizes the Motor Vehicle Code. These new questions are so simplified that it would appear that little or no confusion should arise in the applicant's mind as he takes the examination. A typical question is:

What is the hand signal for?

Right Turn

Left Turn

Stop or Slow

There is another feature to the examination form that would seem to increase the efficiency of the newer tests. The examinations are not uniform. The questions are jumbled in their order so that two people being examined at the same center need not get the same set of questions.

All applicants except illiterates take the written test. Illiterates, however, must be able to recognize road and stop signs. In addition to the driver's license examination which all applicants take, chauffeurs and drivers of school buses⁵⁰ take an examination adapted to their particular type of driving. The laws are so much more complicated

⁵⁰ Persons who drive school buses must have chauffeurs' licenses usually granted only to persons eighteen years of age or over. A driver of a school bus must also obtain written permission from both the president and the secretary of the board of the school district he serves. Limited chauffeurs' licenses may be granted to school bus drivers who are sixteen years of age or over.—*Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 402; *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5032.04.

for truck drivers than for ordinary automobile drivers that this type of procedure is logical. Not all operators of passenger cars could drive and manipulate the large commercial vehicles plying the highways in this modern day.

Still another step is necessary before a driver's fitness is finally determined. The operator's vision must be tested. This the examiner does by means of a Projecto Chart. This instrument flashes small figures of various colored numbers and letters upon a screen. The applicant must be able to recognize these. The chief value of a machine of this type rests in the fact that it measures the sharpness of a person's vision and also reveals color-blindness. The Department, however, usually disregards color-blindness in issuing drivers' licenses, since it is possible for a person who is color blind to distinguish between red and green signals although he does not see the correct colors. Surprising as it may seem there were no motor vehicle accidents in Iowa for the years 1933, 1934, 1935, and the first half of 1937 which were due to color-blindness.⁵¹

To qualify for a license, the would-be driver must show at least normal sight, according to a standard vision chart. If glasses are needed to bring a person's sight within the accepted range, this fact must be indicated upon the application by the examiner. The licensee needing glasses is told that he must wear glasses while driving.

Deafness is not regarded by the Department of Public Safety as being necessarily detrimental to driving so long as the driver has adequate equipment upon his car to compensate for his deficiency in hearing. The Drivers' License Division takes the attitude that if mirrors are located so that the deaf driver has complete coverage of the view to the rear of his car, he can be a competent driver.

⁵¹ Accident analyses for 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, January to July, 1934, prepared by the Iowa Safety Council.

Nothing in the examination is designed as yet to measure accurately the physical and mental fitness of an individual. The prospective operator is asked to answer certain questions concerning his use or non-use of drugs and liquor, and his mental health.

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF THE DRIVER'S LICENSE

Possession of a license does not, in itself, guarantee safe driving and the State, when it grants a privilege, can take it away.⁵² The examination does not eliminate the negligent or indifferent driver, nor is there anything in the examining procedure that can detect the criminal who uses the automobile in the execution of his crimes. It is here that difficulties arise. The driving public as a whole is not composed of criminals and should not be treated as such. But it taxes the ingenuity of lawmakers to devise means of enforcement and penalties which will reach the relatively small group of drivers who are not criminally minded, but who violate the law through negligence or a stubborn belief that they should decide when to obey a traffic law.

Shortly after the enactment of the drivers' license law in Iowa, the Brookings Institution issued its study of State administration in Iowa. Its comment was "*The law relative to the licensing of operators and chauffeurs . . . should eventually be strengthened and clarified with reference to licensing, reporting of accidents, and suspension and revocation of drivers' licenses.*" Suspensions and revocations, said the report, "do not appear to be as frequent in Iowa as statistics indicate they should be; and in this respect more effective enforcement seems to be needed."⁵³

The most effective weapon that the Department of Public

⁵² Babbitt's *Law Applied to Automobiles*, p. 220, Sec. 324.

⁵³ *Report on a Survey of Administration in Iowa* (prepared by the Brookings Institution in 1933), pp. 105, 106.

Safety has at hand in enforcing rules for safe driving is the authority to withdraw a license. Authorities hold that the license is not property; therefore, its withdrawal does not violate the Constitution.⁵⁴ The Rhode Island Supreme Court, in supporting the point of view that the license is not property, has held that neither suspension or revocation violates constitutional rights.

Revocation is much the sterner of the two policies of withdrawal, with several characteristics that distinguish it from suspension. In the first place, revocation is mandatory in certain instances such as conviction in cases involving manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated, conviction of any felony in which a motor vehicle is used, failure to give aid in case of an accident involving death or personal injuries, conviction of perjury involving statements made to the Department, and conviction of reckless driving three times within a period of twelve months. Neither the court nor the Department of Public Safety has any discretion concerning revocation of a license whenever a conviction for any of the above situations is involved. Revocation is mandatory. In no event may the Department reinstate or issue a new license to one whose license has been revoked within one year from the date of revocation.⁵⁵

The Department is also authorized to suspend or revoke the license "of any resident of this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of such a person in another state for an offense therein which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of an operator or chauffeur."⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Babbitt's *Law Applied to Automobiles* (Third Edition), Sec. 233.

⁵⁵ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 240; *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5014.09. For the ruling concerning the authority of the Governor to set aside a revocation of a license, see p. 32.

⁵⁶ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 236; *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5014.05.

The Department of Public Safety is authorized to send a record of the conviction of a non-resident driver to the State of his residence for any violations he might have committed in Iowa. The Department may also revoke or suspend the driving privilege of a non-resident.⁵⁷

Suspension of the license is another penalty which may be used in certain cases when recommended by the court.⁵⁸ In fact, all those items for which revocation is mandatory upon conviction are subject to suspension while the case is pending. Dismissal of charges against the accused, however, does not automatically release the license from suspension.

In addition to the reasons for suspension given above, a driver's license may be suspended for habitual reckless or negligent driving, for habitual violation of the traffic laws, for permitting the fraudulent use of the driver's license, and for any offense committed outside the State which would be grounds for revocation in Iowa.

The Department has developed additional technique to reduce lawless driving. Interested citizens, as observers sponsored by various organizations interested in safety work, report the license number of the vehicle and the offense. The sender of the report must give his consent to appear in court if required. This was required in order to avoid the reports of the spiteful person or "grouch". For the first offense, an appropriate letter of warning is sent; for the second or perhaps third offense the offender may find himself summoned for a driver's license examination.⁵⁹

Accidents are a very important concern of the Department of Public Safety, and the operators of both automo-

⁵⁷ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 234; *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5014.04.

⁵⁸ *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5014.07.

⁵⁹ Information from the Motor Vehicle Department, 1938, and Karl W. Fischer, December 13, 1941.

biles involved in a serious accident may be summoned for a driver's license examination.

Arising out of accidents are sometimes regrettable situations such as failure to stop at the scene of an accident. The license of a hit-and-run driver, if he is apprehended, shall be revoked. Failure to report an accident is sufficient grounds to justify suspension of a license.

Suspension of license may also be invoked when a person fails to satisfy a judgment involving damage done, injuries, or death arising out of use or ownership of a motor vehicle, within sixty days after its award. Suspension remains until the judgment is satisfied to the extent of \$5,000 in a case involving one person, \$10,000 if two or more persons are injured, or \$1,000 for property damage.⁶⁰

At a hearing for reinstatement of a license before the Department all the data concerning a suspended driver is presented. For instance, in an accident hearing the Department presents the driver's statement and its records, and witnesses are produced to enable the person hearing the appeal to come to a final decision in a case. Evidence which is submitted is given with the idea of allowing the operator the greatest possible benefit. At the hearing, the burden of proof, however, rests upon the individual to show why his license should be reinstated.

The attitude of helpfulness of the Department can best be illustrated by sketching briefly a case from the files. The case involved a youngster who had held a limited license, i. e., one which required that the driver of a car be accompanied by another person. He had been "picked up" for reckless driving and had changed his age on the license from sixteen to eighteen. In the course of the hearing the discovery was made that he drove his parent's car at specified times. The father was somewhat hostile toward the

⁶⁰ *Laws of Iowa*, 1937, Ch. 134, Sec. 306; *Code of 1939*, Sec. 5021.02.

police authorities and to the representatives of the Department at the outset. The mother was convinced that the best course to follow was indefinite suspension of her son's license. The only desire of the Department was to impress the youngster with the seriousness of his careless driving and disregard for rules. The emphasis was placed upon the desire to give the youth the proper start as a responsible driver.

CONCLUSIONS

It is difficult to determine the value of the drivers' license law without a detailed study of the factors which cause accidents. The number of cars, their speed, the number of miles driven, the weather, the physical and psychological condition of the drivers—all have some bearing on accident rates. It is true that the number of accidents and fatalities have not shown any marked decrease since the enactment of the drivers' license law,⁶¹ but the increase in traffic must be considered in this evaluation of the law. Prevention of an increase of accidents is also valuable. Any attempt to measure the effectiveness of a safety program with a drivers' license policy the sole method used would be utter folly. The licensing of operators and chauffeurs can not in itself achieve a maximum of safety consciousness or responsibility.

Perhaps too much weight is placed upon that phase of the test dealing with the fitness of the car. All operators do not own cars. Perhaps a better test of the driver's ability might be had if he did not drive his own automobile at all. At any rate the responsibility of examining a motor vehicle for mechanical fitness might well be removed from the drivers' license examiner and a compulsory uniform State testing law be adopted. That such testing is needed was

⁶¹ See the table of motor vehicles registered, accidents, and fatalities on page 7 above.

indicated by the results of a voluntary testing of cars in Iowa in the summer of 1941, when 70.2 per cent of the vehicles tested were found to have defective lights.⁶²

The view has been expressed that perhaps the crux to the whole problem of safety is one which would involve some test of a person's judgment. The implication might be that even the services of psychologists might be of some value in really testing the operator's ability to drive a car. No part of the examination — written, driving, or vision — reaches that trait in some person's physical or mental make-up that prompts him (or her) to go at a reckless speed or to take undue chances.

Examinations are being constantly studied by the Department. Experts and students of the safety problem will probably devise some technique that will make the examination more meaningful. The fact that examinations are being revised by the Department and testing apparatus investigated is a favorable sign in itself.

A program of specialized tests would strengthen the granting of a license in the interests of safety. On the other hand, some revision might be had in the matter of judging the abuse of the privilege. A hearing should be granted only in cases of serious proportions. Perhaps the conduct of a hearing might be in the hands of some officer other than the examiner himself. Michigan has a license appeal board composed of the commissioner of the department of public safety, the attorney general, and the secretary of state, who is the chairman. Anyone of these may appoint deputies to serve in his absence. Anyone believing himself to be aggrieved by the action of the department may appeal to this board. Witnesses may be subpoenaed by this body.⁶³ Such a plan might permit more equitable

⁶² *Public Safety Magazine*, December, 1941.

⁶³ *Laws of Michigan*, 1931, Ch. 91, Sec. 16.

hearings or at least remove any claim that the one presiding was prejudiced.

Safety consciousness might be intensified by a system of graduated penalties with regard to revocation of an operator's license. A bill was introduced in the 1935 legislature of Iowa which provided that a first conviction for the illegal transportation or selling of liquor or a conviction for driving while intoxicated called for a revocation period of two years; a second conviction for the same offense would bring a revocation of three years; and a third conviction would result in revocation for ten years.⁶⁴

The usual approach to the problem of safety education seems to be that of "locking the door after the horse is stolen". But the effects of more strict enforcement upon the small percentage of drivers who are dangerous should leave their impressions upon the general driving public. The opinion is held by those who are close to the problem that severe laws and strict enforcement will alienate public support of the fundamental purpose of the drivers' license law and arouse hostility against the Department as well. On the other hand, since the number of persons coming within the scope of legal penalties imposed by the Department is such a small minority, severity of laws may be of some advantage.

The Department is adequately equipped with personnel of the highest type and with well-integrated organization for administering the drivers' license law in the interests of safety.

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⁶⁴ *House File*, 1935, No. 251.

THE IOWA SAWMILL INDUSTRY

The importance of the sawmill industry to the early settlement and subsequent development of Iowa is little known; most citizens of the United States, and even many in Iowa, regard this State as being entirely agricultural. They recognize the presence and importance of the many industries which convert raw agricultural materials into a variety of products, but relatively few persons realize that there were, and still are, forested areas in Iowa. It is even less well known that at one time this State was the center of a sawmill industry of considerable magnitude and that even at the present time the conversion of logs into lumber affords a livelihood for a considerable number of people in some sections of Iowa.

The colonization of Iowa began in 1833 with the opening of the Black Hawk Purchase. The first settlers found a territory relatively rich in forests. The area of forest land has been estimated at various amounts. Hugh P. Baker placed the timbered area of Iowa at one-fifth of the total land area.¹ Jacob T. Crane, Jr., and George W. Olcott wrote in 1933 that "two hundred years ago, about 5,000,000 acres, or about one-seventh of the state's area was wooded."² The most accurate estimate appears to be one offered in a memorandum found in the files of the Iowa Forest and Wasteland Survey³ which places the original

¹ Baker's *Native and Planted Timber in Iowa* (United States Forest Service Circular, No. 154, 1908), p. 8.

² Crane and Olcott's *Report on the Twenty-five Year Conservation Plan*, p. 72.

³ This typed memorandum, giving acres of timber by counties, based on the United States Land Office surveys, 1832-1859, is among the files of the Department of Forestry, Iowa State College.

forested area of the State at a figure of 6,680,926 acres, or 18.77 per cent of the land area. This estimate was determined by planimentering a map of Iowa based on the original land survey. This last estimate was accepted by Charles M. Genaux and John G. Kuenzel as the most plausible of all those proposed.⁴ G. B. MacDonald says: "In northeastern Iowa some counties were 90 per cent forested, in southeastern Iowa from 70 to 75 per cent forested."⁵ The wealth of available timber and the needs of the early settlers for building materials led, naturally, to an early development of a pioneer sawmill industry.

George W. Hotchkiss wrote in 1898: "it is unfortunate that the immensity of value of the forestry industry of the country has never been adequately appreciated . . . it is the exception rather than the rule that the sawmills of the new settlements receive even a brief mention."⁶ Because the sawmill industry has been, and probably will continue to be, of importance to the economy of Iowa it appears logical that a brief accounting of the industry should be offered.⁷

Ralph C. Bryant has pointed out that the general trend of the lumber industry in all regions of the United States,

⁴ Genaux and Kuenzel's *Defects Which Reduce the Quality and Yield of Oak-Hickory Stands in Southeastern Iowa* in *Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin*, No. 269 (1939), p. 410.

⁵ MacDonald's *The Beginning of a National and State Forestry Program in Iowa* in *Ames Forester*, Vol. XXV (1935), p. 15.

⁶ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 30.

⁷ This study was prepared in 1941 as a thesis for a master of arts degree at Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The materials used were found chiefly in the State College Library. County histories were consulted in the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines. Some volumes were secured from the John Crerar Library in Chicago and from local public libraries. Useful information was also received from G. R. Ramsey, State extension forester for Iowa, from the Washington Office of the United States Forest Service, and from residents of Burlington, Davenport, and Dubuque.

except the northwest, has been to install small mills to supply local demands of the settlers.⁸ Later, when transportation facilities improved, the industry expanded to meet the needs of outside markets. During this phase of the industry, the producing units were large. When the virgin timber stands became depleted, the large mills decreased in number or disappeared and the small mills again became dominant because they could be operated on scattered stands of timber and in second growth timber more cheaply than could a large unit.

The Iowa sawmill industry has followed this general pattern. The first, or pioneer period, may be said to extend from 1829 to about 1860, the middle period of large producing units and peak lumber production from about 1860 to about 1910, and the third or small mill period from 1910 to the present time. The division of periods in this manner should not be construed to mean that all of the sawmills which operated during a certain period conformed to the pattern suggested. There were a few large units in existence during the pioneer period and numerous small mills in operation during the middle years. The dominant type of sawmill unit in each period has, however, run true, in general, to the suggested pattern.

THE PIONEER PERIOD OF THE SAWMILL INDUSTRY 1829-1860

On June 1, 1833, under the President's proclamation, a tract of land 50 miles wide west of the Mississippi River, known as the Black Hawk Purchase, was thrown open to settlement. This cession of land was supplemented by other treaties in 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1851, which opened more land to settlement.

⁸ Bryant's *Lumber, Its Manufacture and Distribution* (Second Edition, 1938), pp. xvii, xviii.

As a result of the opening of these lands there was a great influx of people from many sections of the United States. Into southeastern Iowa came colonists from the Carolinas, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, and States directly to the east. Settlers in more northerly portions of the new territory came from New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. For the most part, the pioneers came from forested States and it was natural that they should first settle on land in Iowa which abounded in timber, chiefly along the rivers on the east.

“These river bottoms”, commented one writer, “were covered with a virgin forest such as had never been seen by the white man.” Black walnut trees which measured from four to six feet in diameter were growing on the bottom lands. Sycamore trees often grew to five feet in diameter. Other trees noted were oaks, hickory, hackberry, and butternut.⁹ Another writer, of an earlier date, pointed out that “along the streams there are thousands of acres covered with an excellent growth of oak, walnut, ash, linn, maple, hickory, elm, and cottonwood.” The same writer records a noticeable lack of timber in the western part of Iowa, especially on the upland prairies between the stream bottoms.¹⁰

Some sections of the new territory possessed a heavy forest cover. A history of Buchanan County, published in 1881, made this statement: “Almost one-half of this township [Liberty] was, at the advent of the settlers, densely forested.”¹¹ A description of a forested area in Bremer County gives the size of the tract as being 26 sections. Tree species mentioned as growing on this latter tract were

⁹ George F. Parker's *Iowa — Pioneer Foundations*, Vol. I, pp. 228-231.

¹⁰ Nathan H. Parker's *Iowa As It Is In 1855*, p. 35.

¹¹ *History of Buchanan County, Iowa* (edited by C. S. and Elizabeth Percival and published by Williams Bros., Cleveland, Ohio, 1881), p. 296.

hard maple, black walnut, butternut, white oak, elm, ash, basswood, poplar, dogwood, and ironwood.¹²

TABLE I
ROUGH LUMBER PRODUCTION IN IOWA¹³
THOUSAND FEET BOARD MEASURE

<i>Year</i>	<i>White Pine</i>	<i>Total Soft- woods</i>	<i>Oak</i>	<i>Walnut</i>	<i>Total Hard- woods</i>	<i>Total Lumber</i>
1859	161,000	161,000	9,500	3,500	22,000	183,000
1869	297,285	297,285	15,100	4,500	28,000	325,285
1879	372,000	374,000	22,000	5,100	38,578	412,578
1889	537,000	540,000	37,790	6,900	68,000	608,000
1899	288,581	290,741	33,994	4,313	61,670	352,411
1909	80,158	80,378	17,335	852	51,643	132,021
1919	285	362	4,096	5,074	18,131	18,493
1929			3,180	7,670	15,432	15,432
1939			3,262	294	5,164	5,164

Sawmills were a pioneer necessity. Very shortly after the new territory was opened for settlement, the need for building material became so great that "the sawmill often either preceded settlement or followed it so closely that the frame house soon became the standard." The farmer farmed the bottom portion of his land, which had been cleared of trees. Farm work occupied his time during the season of planting, cultivating, and harvesting. With the onset of cold weather, "he became again the woodman".¹⁴

The sawmills which were operated during the early days in Iowa were supplied with raw material, for the most part,

¹² Chas. E. Hall's *Pen Sketches of the Big Woods* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XXIX, pp. 402-418.

¹³ Data for the years given in the table were received in a communication from R. W. Nelson, Acting Chief of the Division of Forest Economics, United States Forest Service, dated February 21, 1941. The data given were taken from United States Census reports, but were adjusted somewhat, so that totals and break-down of totals will not check accurately against published census data. In forestry "hardwood" is used to designate the wood of any broad-leaved deciduous tree.

¹⁴ George F. Parker's *Iowa — Pioneer Foundations*, Vol. I, pp. 202, 228.

from the forests immediately adjacent to the location of the mill. The farmer felled timber and drew it to the sawmill. However, not all of the logs for the early mills came from native timber. Pioneer mills were constructed along the Mississippi River, many of which were supplied with pine logs from the Wisconsin pineries. The sawmills of Iowa, furnished with logs from within and outside the State, by 1850 were cutting sufficient lumber to rank Iowa in eleventh place among the States in the amount of lumber produced.¹⁵

The records indicate that the first sawmill to be erected on Iowa soil was built by a detachment of soldiers from Fort Crawford, which was located at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. They chose a site on the Yellow River about six miles from the Fort. Here they built a mill dam across the Yellow River, constructed a water wheel, erected a mill, and on October 9, 1829, began the production of rough lumber which was floated across the Mississippi River to the fort.¹⁶

In 1834, Benjamin W. Clark built a sawmill on Duck Creek in Scott County to supply the needs of the new settlers. The following year, a dam was thrown across the Skunk River at Augusta, in Des Moines County, and a sawmill erected. In 1837 a steam sawmill was built at Dubuque and the same year a steam mill was erected in Scott County and another in Muscatine County on Lime Creek.¹⁷ The number of mills, in towns along the Mississippi River, increased rapidly from this time on. Edgar R. Harlan,

¹⁵ Wm. Duane Wilson's *Description of Iowa and Its Resources* (1865), p. 85.

¹⁶ Bruce E. Mahan's *Old Fort Crawford and the Frontier*, p. 134; Ellison Orr's *Hunting an Old Dam Site*; Jacob A. Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, pp. 41, 42; letter from P. M. Hamer, The National Archives, to Ruth A. Gallaher, dated December 1, 1941.

¹⁷ Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, pp. 43, 66; Floyd B. Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa* (*Iowa Studies in Business*, No. XIII), p. 18.

writing about industry moving across the Mississippi River, comments, "the first important industries to mark them [the towns along the Mississippi] as manufacturing centers were mills that worked up the great log rafts floated down the Mississippi".¹⁸

The earliest date on record of a sawmill west of the Des Moines River is 1837. During that year Samuel Clayton placed a dam across Chequest Creek and erected a mill.¹⁹ An Indian agency was established by the Federal government where Agency City in Wapello County now stands and two mills used both as saw and grist mills were built in that vicinity in 1839. One mill was located on Sugar Creek and the other on Soap Creek.²⁰

When the settlers first came to Iowa their equipment with which to obtain building materials were axe, broad axe, frow, auger, and plane. With these few tools the timber was felled and shaped for use in the making of houses, furniture, and fences. Such work required long hours of laborious effort. Soon the settlers resorted to the production of planks by means of whipsawing. In preparation for whipsawing, a platform was erected on a hillside, a pit was dug beneath the platform, and a log rolled onto the platform. One man stood on the log, another in the pit, and the two, pulling a cross-cut saw, ripped planks off the log. This, too, was a slow, laborious process.²¹

The many streams in Iowa afforded power and, because

¹⁸ Edgar R. Harlan's *A Narrative History of the People of Iowa*, Vol. II, p. 78.

¹⁹ George C. Duffield's *Frontier Mills* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, p. 428.

²⁰ Ruth A. Gallaher's *Indian Agents in Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XIV, p. 379; Jacob Van der Zee's *The Opening of the Des Moines Valley to Settlement* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XIV, p. 501.

²¹ Duffield's *Frontier Mills* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 427, 428.

much of the timber was found along the water courses it was natural they should be harnessed to supply the power for the mills. Most of the early mills were built at locations where water power was available. There were a few steam mills in operation very early in the history of Iowa, such as the one erected in 1837 at Dubuque. But for many years, water-power sawmills continued to dominate the industry. The large mills which soon appeared along the Mississippi River were, in the main, steam-powered, as also were many of the smaller mills in western and northwestern Iowa, but the dominant type in other sections of the State was the water mill. One report on the early township surveys in western Iowa gave twenty-three sawmills and gristmills for the area along the Missouri River, "some of them very fine and worked by steam".²²

Because the abundance of water courses afforded power there was, at an early date, considerable competition for suitable sites for the erection of dams. Soon after Iowa became a Territory in 1838 the matter of mills and mill dams became a subject of legislative concern. General laws were passed to regulate mills and millers and special acts authorized the building of dams and mills. The first of these, adopted on January 12, 1839, authorized Benjamin Nye to build a dam across Pine River, now Pine Creek, in Muscatine County.²³

Many types of dams were built to impound the water in a stream. The simplest type was the brush dam. To make this, large logs hewed on two sides were laid end to end across the stream and spliced together. Brush was then piled against the logs with the butt ends upstream and weighted down with clay and rocks. Then another layer of

²² Jacob A. Swisher's *Township Surveys in the Iowa Country* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XXXV, p. 19.

²³ Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, pp. 43, 44.

brush was laid on top of the clay and rock but with the butt ends extending a bit more upstream than the layer below. Successive layers of brush and clay and rock were added until the dam reached the height needed.

A more costly type of dam and a more enduring one was the crib dam. This was built by laying three or four strings of hewed timbers across the stream, the logs in each string being securely pinned together. Notches were cut in the top faces of the logs comprising the strings, and cross ties were laid in the notches and pinned to the logs beneath. These logs formed rectangular pens which were filled with clay and rock. On top of the cross ties more strings of logs were laid across the stream. Successive layers of strings and cross ties formed pens filled with clay and rock and raised the dam to the desired height. The dam was provided with a roof to protect the clay and rock filling from the elements. The Clayton mill had a crib dam.²⁴

The sawmills of an early date in Iowa used three forms of water wheels, the undershot wheel, the overshot wheel, and the flutter wheel.²⁵ Both the overshot and undershot wheels were very large in diameter. An early Dubuque County sawmill had a wooden overshot wheel which was 14½ feet in diameter and 15 feet wide.²⁶

The undershot wheel was generally used on small streams where the flow of water was small. It was driven by the force of the water against the under edge of the wheel. It turned very slowly and usually lacked power because of the absence of a strong stream flow. This necessitated the use

²⁴ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa* (Iowa Studies in Business, No. XIII), pp. 15, 16; Duffield's *Frontier Mills in the Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 428, 429; Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, pp. 47-49.

²⁵ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 16.

²⁶ Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, pp. 55-58.

of gears to obtain sufficient power and as gears were expensive and difficult to obtain in a pioneer community, the undershot wheel was not in great favor.

The overshot wheel was usually from 16 to 18 feet in diameter and was often used in mills located some distance from the dam. The water from the millpond was conducted to the wheel through a flume, which discharged the water against the top of the wheel into buckets, whereupon, gravity caused the wheel to turn.

The flutter or breast wheel was the type most commonly employed, because it was simple, used a small head of water, and required no gears. George C. Duffield described the flutter wheel constructed at Clayton's mill on Chequest Creek in Van Buren County as follows, "It was constructed upon a shaft that was about a foot in diameter, long enough to carry the wheel and give a bearing on each end. Holes were mortised through, say a foot from the bearings, not intersecting, and about three by six inches. Through the holes were driven tough scantling, which, being sawed off two or three feet from the shaft, formed the two ends of the wheel. It was completed by pinning to each pair of spokes a plank three by twelve or fourteen inches, and of the length of the wheel as designed (Clayton's flutter wheel was six feet). Boards were then pinned with their flat sides toward the shaft, in the angles of the spokes, and some 18 or 20 inches from the shaft. This gave something the appearance of a headless drum with vanes or flanges extending out of its eight corners. The shaft rested on bearings cut into logs left projecting from the underside of the race for that purpose. It was held down by cap bearings fitted over it, and pinned with long tough pins."²⁷

²⁷ Duffield's *Frontier Mills* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, p. 430.

Later, after 1860, much use was made of the water turbine to generate the power necessary to drive mill machinery.

Duffield's description of the sawing mechanism of Clayton's mill describes the characteristic features of the early water-driven mills. The shore end of the flutter wheel shaft, previously described, was fitted with a crank iron. To the crank was pinned a pitman shaft about two by four inches and six to eight feet long. The upper end of the pitman shaft was attached to the bottom end of the sash saw blade which, when operating, had an up and down reciprocal motion. The saw blade was about eight inches wide with teeth two to three inches long pointing downward. The saw cut only on the downward stroke. The log to be cut rested on a series of wooden rollers and was pried forward against the saw teeth by use of a crow bar or other lever.²⁸

J. P. Walton, describing the Warfield mill on Mad Creek at Bloomington (Muscatine), stated that the mill had one saw six inches wide by seven feet long, with "teeth half as large as a man's hand". The saw blade was fastened in a square frame, which moved up and down in slides when actuated by the pitman shaft attached to the lower end of the saw frame. The movement of the saw frame in the slides was similar to the sliding of a window sash in the window frame.²⁹

Saw blades, with teeth on each edge, were introduced about 1850, the log being fed into the saw, first against one cutting edge, then the other. Gang saws, which later became standard equipment in most large mills, were made up of a large number of saw blades attached in a frame

²⁸ Duffield's *Frontier Mills* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 430, 431.

²⁹ J. P. Walton's *Pioneer Papers*, p. 137.

which operated in the same manner as the single sash saw. The gang saw, having many blades, could cut several boards from a log simultaneously.³⁰

About 1856, the board of trustees of the Wittemberg Manual Labor College purchased eight acres of forest land, at a price of \$33.00 an acre, to supply lumber for the college buildings. One of their number, John Carey, was sent to the east to purchase a sawmill which could be moved from place to place to saw the timber into the needed lumber. All of the manufacturers whom he visited insisted that a portable mill would not be successful. Finally, however, Carey interested a machinery firm in Norwalk, Ohio, and the mill was built, shipped to Jasper County, and set up. The mill was a success and was used to produce the lumber needed for the college. Afterwards it was sold and was operating as late as 1880. This mill is reputed to have been the first portable sawmill ever built. The mill "created a revolution in the sawmill industry, east as well as west".³¹

The labor which was required to operate the sawmills of this period was recruited from the communities in which the mills were located. The mills were mostly small and required only a few men. Even at the close of the period, the average number of hands per mill remained quite small.

There were, however, some operations of moderate size. Franc B. Wilkie wrote in 1857, that Cannon and French of Davenport employed 80 men in a sawmill, and Renwick and Sons, of the same city, 30 men, at a wage of \$1.25 daily. At that time Davenport had five sawmills.³²

No record was found of the existence of any labor organ-

³⁰ Swisher's *Iowa — Land of Many Mills*, p. 73.

³¹ James B. Weaver's *Past and Present of Jasper County, Iowa*, Vol. I, p. 131.

³² Franc B. Wilkie's *Davenport Past and Present*, pp. 266, 267.

izations nor of any attempt to organize the workers in the early mills. The labor movement in the United States had not become formulated at that early date. Also, there were but few centers in Iowa where there were sufficient sawmill workers to present a united labor front.

As the pioneer period merged into the next period, about 1860, certain characteristics of the middle period became noticeable. The number of large sawmills in the towns along the Mississippi River was a dominant factor in the industrial life of the State. The Mississippi River was the scene of great activity, due to the traffic in logs on the river.

During the pioneer period the population of Iowa increased rapidly with a concomitant increase in the demand for lumber. Most of the lumber produced was used locally and transported by wagon. Later there were a few miles of railroad which afforded a more satisfactory means of distribution. In a period slightly longer than 20 years the sawmills had invaded almost every timbered section of Iowa. The native timber along the streams and on some upland areas was not sufficient to meet the needs of a growing population and to better meet the increased demand for lumber, many mills were established in the river towns where the supply of raw material from the forests of Wisconsin was easily available. By 1859 there were 540 sawmills operating in Iowa. These mills produced 183,000,000 board feet of lumber of which but 22,000,000 feet came from native forests. The balance of 161,000,000 feet consisted of white pine cut from logs rafted down the Mississippi River from the northern pineries. The economic picture of the sawmill industry in Iowa is shown in Table II. The size of the mills, as evidenced by the number of hands employed, was larger in the river counties than in the interior. These mills sawed the logs rafted down the Mississippi.

By 1860 the pioneer period merges into the middle period, an era characterized by large producing units and the peak of lumber production in Iowa.

PEAK LUMBER PRODUCTION
1860-1910

A study of statistics for the years 1860, 1870, and 1880, indicating the number of mills for those counties of the State which reported active sawmills and the average number of hands per mill, affords a clear picture of the centers of the sawmill industry for the early part of the middle period. Unfortunately, data of similar nature were not gathered for subsequent years. These data reveal that the average number of hands per mill was much greater in Clayton, Dubuque, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Des Moines, and Lee counties than in other counties of the State. The counties named are all bordered by the Mississippi River down which softwood logs were floated. Lansing, Dubuque, Bellevue, Lyons, Clinton, Le Claire, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keokuk turned out thousands of feet of lumber every year.³³

Table II illustrates the difference between the lumber industry in certain river counties, where the sawmills handled large numbers of logs from the north, and the remaining counties, where the sawmills simply made into lumber the logs cut in that locality. A few counties in the northwest, O'Brien for example, reported no lumbering at all. In others there was a limited supply and it took only a year or two to use up the local timber. In other counties the local lumber industry continued over several decades. Statistics on Fremont, Bremer, and Johnson counties are given to illustrate counties having a lumber industry covering

³³ Marie E. Meyer's *Rafting on the Mississippi* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. VIII, p. 126.

only a short period of years. Appanoose, Clayton, and Decatur represent the counties with a comparatively steady local lumber industry. Clinton, Dubuque, Lee, Muscatine, and Scott counties represent the counties where the lumber mills grew into big business. It is to be noted that the number of mills bore little relation to the volume of business.

TABLE II

STATISTICS ON SAWMILL INDUSTRY IN IOWA³⁴

	<i>No. of Mills</i>	<i>No. of Employees</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Wages</i>	<i>Value of Product</i>
<i>State</i>					
1860	540	1,680	\$1,606,210	\$458,544	\$2,124,502
1870	545	3,782	3,925,001	995,962	5,794,285
1880	328	2,989 ³⁵	4,946,390	825,244	6,185,628
<i>Appanoose</i>					
1860	20	47	34,750	9,516	41,405
1870	10	35	21,450	6,450	47,530
1880	7	18	7,250	2,450	31,750
<i>Bremer</i>					
1860	13	23	38,400	6,276	53,060
1870	10	37	25,200	3,175	43,300
1880	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Clayton</i>					
1860	4	6	9,800	1,344	6,300
1870	10	98	61,500	26,670	123,970
1880	14	148 ³⁶	198,500	41,490	284,701
<i>Clinton</i>					
1860	7	78	67,500	20,448	98,834
1870	8	813	1,420,000	324,416	1,598,322
1880	8	570	1,766,000	215,793	1,979,127

³⁴ *Eighth Census of the United States* (1860), *Manufactures*, pp. 146-160; *Ninth Census of the United States* (1870), *Industry and Wealth*, Vol. III, p. 517; *Tenth Census of the United States* (1880), *Manufactures*, p. 117. Data for all counties is to be found in these census reports.

³⁵ Of these 463 were listed as youths under 16 years of age.

³⁶ Of these 26 were listed as youths under 16 years of age.

	<i>No. of Mills</i>	<i>No. of Employees</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Wages</i>	<i>Value of Product</i>
<i>Decatur</i>					
1860	16	51	34,300	11,004	138,900
1870	10	32	20,500	6,750	61,571
1880	16	33	22,750	4,040	42,735
<i>Dubuque</i>					
1860	6	57	37,000	13,632	38,955
1870	6	164	163,000	68,000	306,700
1880	7	188	303,000	53,875	352,540
<i>Fremont</i>					
1860	12	49	29,175	11,352	41,307
1870	10	33	26,000	10,650	133,400
1880	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Johnson</i>					
1860	—	—	—	—	—
1870	4	18	14,400	2,850	17,500
1880	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Lee</i>					
1860	8	26	50,800	8,136	44,100
1870	10	220	216,300	70,088	384,067
1880	16	255	735,500	120,217	641,840
<i>Muscatine</i>					
1860	7	95	86,500	31,848	90,835
1870	3	103	302,000	95,100	381,650
1880	5	264 ³⁷	501,700	116,500	612,400
<i>Scott</i>					
1860	6	85	90,000	25,140	75,200
1870	7	341	518,000	110,000	597,200
1880	7	259	664,000	103,750	843,980

The growth of a large lumber producing industry in Iowa during this period was a part of the growth and westward development of the American lumber industry. In colonial days, lumbering began in Maine and over a period of years migrated westward through New York and Pennsylvania to Michigan. The industry flourished in lower

³⁷ Included 92 children or youths.

Michigan as the products were needed to build Indiana and Illinois. The next natural move was to the pineries of Wisconsin but, because the Mississippi River offered a cheap method for transporting the bulky and heavy raw material, the manufacturing plants were built near to the points of great demand, namely, the growing prairie States. In this way, Wisconsin and Iowa joined to form a great area for the production of a product so vital to the upbuilding of the Middle West.

During the middle period, the many small mills located in the interior counties continued to produce lumber from hardwood timber of native origin, mostly for local consumption. A sawmill industry of some importance developed in the most westerly counties of the State. In 1877, 8,000,000 board feet of lumber were produced at Sioux City and in other towns along the Missouri River.³⁸ Most of this lumber was cut from the cottonwood timber which grew on the Missouri River flats.

During the period when lumber production was at its peak the increase in the mileage of railroads built in Iowa was pronounced. A number of the narrow gauge railroad lines were built during this period, one, at least, for the specific purpose of transporting lumber. This line was the Farmers Union Railroad, built in 1875 to carry lumber from a sawmill near the Iowa River west of Liscomb in Marshall County.³⁹

The bulk of the lumber produced during this period consisted of white pine and hemlock, neither of which was found in appreciable quantities in Iowa forests. Logs of these species were imported. The many species of "hard-

³⁸ Franklin B. Hough's *Report upon Forestry* (U. S. Government Printing Office, 1878), pp. 548, 549, 569.

³⁹ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 29; Ben Hur Wilson's *Iowa and the Narrow Gauge* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XIII, p. 143.

woods”⁴⁰ utilized included oak, both white and red, basswood, cottonwood, elm, ash, walnut, hickory, maple, sycamore, birch, and a few others of less importance. Most of these were supplied from native timberlands.

As indicated in the preceding paragraph, the “softwood” species were imported from the northern coniferous forests of Wisconsin. According to George W. Hotchkiss “the supply of log stock for these mills (in Iowa river towns) has of necessity been found in the forests of the Wisconsin, Black, Chippewa, and St. Croix rivers . . . which stream (the Chippewa) was relied upon for a goodly portion of the log supply.”⁴¹

The upper reaches of the Wisconsin River supplied many logs but only a few of these reached the Mississippi for sawing at Iowa mills; mills in Wisconsin reduced most of these logs to lumber. Some logs from the Black River were sent to Iowa mills but the greater portion of such logs were utilized by mills at La Crosse, Wisconsin. It was the Chippewa and tributary streams which supplied the greatest number of logs sent to Iowa sawmills. This stream and its tributaries penetrated the Wisconsin counties of Pepin, Dunn, Eau Claire, Chippewa, Sawyer, Ashland, Price, Taylor, and Barron.⁴²

Many citizens of Wisconsin and the sawmill operators of that State objected to the exportation of Wisconsin timber to sawmills in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. These parties hoped to retain the raw material for sawing in Wisconsin-owned mills. The matter was brought to the attention of the Wisconsin legislature but that body failed to legislate

⁴⁰ “Hardwoods”, according to forestry usage, are broad-leaved deciduous trees.

⁴¹ George W. Hotchkiss’s *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 481.

⁴² Hotchkiss’s *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 482.

against the transportation of logs from the State. On the contrary, in 1866, the legislature granted authority for the construction of booms, piers, and wing dams to facilitate the driving and rafting of logs on Wisconsin rivers, provided such river improvements offered no impediment to the operation of boats on the streams. This legislation cleared the way for the movement of Wisconsin softwood timber out of the State.

These streams drained 10,000 square miles of territory about 85 per cent of which was covered with dense forests in which white pine was the chief tree of importance. Farther north the St. Croix River also supplied some logs for Iowa mills. It tapped the forested counties of Polk and St. Croix.⁴³

A special report of the United States Census Bureau⁴⁴ published in 1884 gives a detailed description of the forests of Wisconsin and indicates that the best quality of white pine timber was to be found in the southern portion of the Wisconsin pine area. This is the area drained by those streams which afforded water transportation for logs consigned to Iowa mills.

The felling and land transportation of logs in the northern forests were accomplished during the winter season as was customary in all American forests in the north. The logs were assembled along the streams while snow was on the ground. When the spring thaw occurred, the logs were rolled into the swirling flood waters and floated loosely down the Wisconsin rivers and collected "in convenient sloughs near the mouths of the Saint Croix, Chippewa, Black, Wisconsin, and other rivers". Each lumber company had a distinguishing mark for the identification of its

⁴³ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, pp. 449, 474.

⁴⁴ *Report on the Forests of North America*, Part 3, *Economic Aspects*, by Charles S. Sargent (U. S. Census), pp. 554-558.

logs and one writer states that "there were over 2,000 log marks recorded by owners of logs floated on the St. Croix".⁴⁵

The locations where the logs were collected and sorted were known as booming works. Here, too, the logs were made into rafts for further transportation down the Mississippi. The logs from the St. Croix River were sorted in Lake St. Croix, those from the Chippewa and its tributaries at Beef (Boeuf) Slough, and later at West Newton, Minnesota, and those from the Black River at North La Crosse, Wisconsin. As stated previously, very few logs from the Wisconsin River ever reached the Mississippi.

The most famous of the booming works was that at the mouth of the Chippewa River at Beef Slough.⁴⁶ This slough was a branch mouth of the Chippewa in which the water was sluggish. It afforded a large area of water in which logs could be collected and sorted. In 1867, a number of sawmill operators formed the Beef Slough Boom and Improvement Company as an agency to handle the logs which were floated down the Chippewa. This organization was chartered to catch, sort, raft, and scale all logs driven down the Chippewa. The company was reorganized in 1873 as the Mississippi River Logging Company.⁴⁷

One of the chief organizers of this boom concern was Frederick Weyerhaeuser of Davenport, Iowa, founder of the great Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Other Iowa sawmill companies which were original members of this boom company were the following:

C. Lamb and Sons.....Clinton

⁴⁵ John E. Briggs's *Iowa Old and New*, p. 361; W. H. C. Folsom's *History of Lumbering in the St. Croix Valley, with Biographic Sketches*, p. 317.

⁴⁶ Walter A. Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 47.

⁴⁷ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 635.

W. J. Young and Company.....	Clinton
Schricker and Mueller.....	Davenport
L. S. Davis	Davenport
Taber and Company.....	Keokuk
W. and J. Fleming.....	McGregor
B. Hershey	Muscatine
Hemenway, Wood and Company.....	Lansing

In 1889, the Beef Slough boom works was transferred across the Mississippi River to West Newton, Minnesota. During the peak of its operation, the Beef Slough works employed from 1200 to 1500 men. Most of these men were Scotch-Canadians who had been lumbermen in Canada on the Ottawa or Saint Maurice River. The logs were sorted and built into rafts so rapidly that 75 steamboats were kept busy on the Mississippi River towing the rafts to the saw-mills. Between 1867 and 1896, the Beef Slough and West Newton works handled over eight billion feet of logs.⁴⁸

Logging ended on the Wisconsin River about 1876, on the Black in 1897, on the Chippewa in 1905, and on the St. Croix in 1914. The total quantity of material floated down these rivers to boom works on the Mississippi follows:

St. Croix	— 12,444,281,720 feet
Chippewa	— 25,365,875,930 feet
Black	— 5,170,000,000 feet
Wisconsin	— 2,285,000,000 feet

The toll charge for handling material at the Beef Slough works was 75 cents per thousand feet log scale, two cents each for ties, and one cent each for fence posts. During 1874, this works handled 133,000,000 feet of logs. The price for towing the rafted logs from Beef Slough or West New-

⁴⁸ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 635; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 51, 53.

ton to points in Iowa was \$1.10 per thousand feet log scale.⁴⁹

After the logs were sorted according to ownership they were made into rafts. Each raft was made up of strings of logs about 17 feet wide, held together by poles laid on top of and across the logs. Each log was pinned to the cross poles by wooden pegs fitted into holes bored through the cross poles and into the logs beneath. Each raft was from five to ten strings wide and about 250 feet long.⁵⁰

Until the middle 1860's, all log rafts were floated with the current and kept in the main river channel and clear of sand bars, islands, bridges, and sloughs by a crew of husky men who manned sweeps (oars about 20 feet long) at both the stern and bow ends of the raft. There was a sweep at each end of each string of logs. Thus a raft ten strings wide was manned by a bow crew of ten and a stern crew of ten. All were under the direction of a raft pilot. Each raft was equipped with a tent in which the crew slept. At night, the raft was tied securely along the river bank. The average speed of a raft was about two and one-half miles an hour unless adverse winds retarded the progress.⁵¹

Food was plentiful and good. Occasionally, when a raft was delayed and provisions ran low, the crew resorted to land forays to replenish the larder. Walter A. Blair told the following story of one expedition of this kind: "An angry farmer, who missed a fat two year old heifer one morning after a raft passed down, overtook the raft by a long, hard row in a heavy skiff. The dressed carcass lay on the logs near the center of the raft, covered with a piece of white canvas. The crew was divided and crouched at the

⁴⁹ Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 290, 291; Hough's *Report upon Forestry*, pp. 529, 530.

⁵⁰ Harry E. Downer's *History of Davenport and Scott County*, p. 435.

⁵¹ Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 27.

corners of the raft, while the old French pilot sat alone with his head down, when the farmer appeared and questioned him. . . . 'You see,' he replied, 'that white ting down there,—Smallpox, one of my best men, the cook. . . . I want you to help me take the cook ashore and bury him.' But the farmer was gone, nearly falling into the river in his excitement and hurry to get away."⁵²

When a raft reached its destination at Dubuque, Clinton, or other river town, the pilot shipped his rafting tools back to the booming works on a steamboat. The crew members were paid for their labors and then, they too took a boat headed upstream. The return trip was generally a long carousal. Each river steamer was equipped with a bar where the rafting crews could spend their earnings for liquor. Fighting often took place. On one occasion a race riot developed on the steamer *Dubuque* between negro steamboat hands and rafters, men "rough in dress and fluent in profanity, . . . who had floated huge rafts of logs down the river and were now returning . . . to the logging camps of the north."⁵³ Many of the ablest raft pilots later became steamboat pilots because of their intimate knowledge of the Mississippi River channel.

In 1864, Captain C. A. Bradley delivered the first raft towed down the river by steamer to the W. J. Young mill at Clinton.⁵⁴ This began a new era in the rafting business. The first boat built specifically for the towing of log rafts was the *Le Claire* built at Le Claire, Iowa, in 1866. This boat was 80 feet four inches long by 15 feet wide with a hull depth of three feet. The boiler was horizontal, 18 feet long by 40 inches in diameter with two 14 inch flues. The *Le*

⁵² Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 38, 39.

⁵³ Ruth A. Gallaher's *A Race Riot on the Mississippi* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. II, pp. 369, 370.

⁵⁴ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 24.

Claire was too small to tow rafts of logs satisfactorily and was sold for use where its size was not a disadvantage. Later, in 1869-1870, the *J. W. Van Sant* was built at Le Claire for towing service. This boat was 100 feet long, 20 feet wide, and had a hull depth of four feet. Soon after the *J. W. Van Sant* proved successful, many of the large lumber companies built and operated their own boats. Small companies, however, depended upon the regular steamboat companies or the free-lance boat captains for the towing of log rafts. Some of the most famous river boats engaged in the rafting business were:⁵⁵

<i>Name of Boat</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Town</i>
Artemus Lamb	C. Lamb and Sons	Clinton
J. W. Mills	W. J. Young and Co.	Clinton
Douglas Boardman	W. J. Young and Co.	Clinton
W. J. Young, Jr.	W. J. Young and Co.	Clinton
Blue Lodge	Clinton Lumber Co.	Clinton
B. Hershey	Hershey Lumber Co.	Muscatine
Silver Wave	Musser Lumber Co.	Muscatine
F. C. A. Denkman	Weyerhaeuser and Denkman	Davenport

Within a few years, the old method of rafting became obsolete and was entirely replaced by steamboat rafting and the use of steamboats greatly increased the commerce in logs. For 30 years (1870-1900) the greatest volume of traffic on the upper Mississippi consisted of log rafts. During the 1890's when the peak of the rafting business was reached, there were 125 boats running to and from Clinton. In 1878, 498 log rafts and 159 lumber rafts passed through the drawbridge at Dubuque.⁵⁶

The advent of the raft steamer resulted in a new type of raft, the brailed raft. The introduction of this type of raft

⁵⁵ Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 77-93, 195.

⁵⁶ Meyer's *Rafting on the Mississippi* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. VIII, pp. 122, 123; P. B. Wolfe's *History of Clinton County, Iowa*, p. 115; Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 26.

is credited to W. J. Young, who was a leading sawmill owner at Clinton. Chains, instead of cross poles and pegs, were used to hold the logs in place. This resulted in the saving of a considerable amount of lumber, as the holes bored in the logs to receive the pegs used to hold the old style raft together ruined parts of the logs for lumber. The brailed raft consisted of two pieces, or halves, each half made up of three brails placed side by side. A brail of logs was 45 feet wide by 600 feet long and a brailed raft was thus 270 feet wide by 600 feet long.⁵⁷

The first steamboats used for towing were sidewheelers which pulled the raft by means of a long towing cable. These side-wheel boats did not prove entirely satisfactory for towing and they were replaced by stern-wheel boats which were used to push the raft from behind instead of to pull it.⁵⁸ To assist in steering the raft, a smaller steamboat was placed crosswise of the raft at the front end. This boat, by moving forward or backward, was able to guide the raft effectively. The stern boat was free to use all of its power to propel the raft. The usual raft-boat speed was three and one-half miles an hour. During good stages of water the boats made round trips from Stillwater, Minnesota, to Fort Madison, Iowa, in ten or eleven days. If the river was low, 14 to 16 days were necessary.

The largest log raft of record was towed from Lynxville, Wisconsin, to Rock Island, Illinois, in 1896 by the steamer *F. C. A. Denkman*, using the *H. C. Brockman* as a bow boat. The raft was 275 feet wide and 1550 feet long and contained 2,250,000 feet of logs.⁵⁹ By 1904, the rafting of logs on the Mississippi had practically ceased. The last log raft went

⁵⁷ Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 51.

⁵⁸ Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, p. 25; Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 81.

⁵⁹ Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, p. 204.

down the river in 1906, destined for Bellevue, Iowa.⁶⁰ The decrease and final stoppage of logs on the river resulted in the closing of the mills. The last mill in South Clinton closed in 1904 and in 1911, the last pine mill on the river, the Standard Lumber Company at Dubuque, closed.⁶¹

The changes in the size of mills during this period was associated with changes in machinery and types of plants. As early as 1860 two distinct types of sawmill plants were operating in Iowa. The small plant capable of sawing a few thousand board feet of lumber daily, and employing a crew of from two to six men, continued to exist in the counties of Iowa not bordered by the Mississippi River. In the eastern counties of the State, bordered by the Great River, the large sawmill was becoming dominant. The average number of hands per mill emphasizes the size of the sawmills in the river counties of Iowa.

The circular (rotary) saw was introduced about 1860 and it was not long before many of the large mills in the towns along the Mississippi were equipped with such saws. In the large mills, the muley (single sash) saws were replaced by the circular and gang types of sawing equipment. The types of saws in use in the large Iowa mills are shown in Table III.

As fast as newer types of machinery were developed, installations of such equipment were made in the larger mills. P. B. Wolfe writes of the C. Lamb and Sons mill in Clinton that, "many innovations in sawmilling were witnessed at the Lamb mill including an edger of an entirely new type and a trimmer, besides a friction log turner that, now driven by steam, is today known as a 'nigger'." Later,

⁶⁰ Fred A. Bill's *When "Rafters" Ruled the River* in the *Clinton Herald*, March 11, 1933.

⁶¹ *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, November 25, 1904, reprinted in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VII, pp. 225, 226; information from R. H. Collier, January 23, 1941.

TABLE III
SEASONAL CAPACITY AND SAWMILL EQUIPMENT OF
MILLS IN IOWA RIVER TOWNS IN 1877⁶²

Town	Number of Mills	Saws			Gang Edgers	Seasonal Capacity in Board Feet
		Gang	Circular	Muley		
Lansing	2	—	3	—	2	12,500,000
McGregor	1	1	1	—	1	15,000,000
Guttenberg	1	—	1	—	—	2,000,000
Dubuque	5	1	8	1	5	30,500,000
Bellevue	1	—	2	—	1	5,000,000
Sabula	1	—	1	—	1	3,500,000
Lyons	3	3	5	—	5	41,000,000
Clinton	4	13	8	2	13	113,000,000
Camanche	1	—	1	1	1	6,000,000
Davenport	5	4	7	1	5	54,000,000
Muscatine	3	2	5	—	4	41,000,000
Burlington	2	—	3	—	3	15,000,000
Fort Madison	2	—	4	—	2	20,000,000
Montrose	1	—	2	—	1	8,000,000
Keokuk	1	—	2	—	1	10,000,000
Total	33	24	53	5	45	376,680,000

about 1884, when the band saw was developed, Chauncey Lamb, of Clinton, was the first man to install one for the manufacture of white pine lumber.⁶³

The capacity of the mills, in general, increased until about 1890 although no record of output by cities is available for years later than 1877. The seven sawmills located in Clinton and Lyons (North Clinton), in 1877, had a total yearly capacity of 154,000,000 board feet of lumber. The records indicate that Clinton, during this period, was the largest center of lumber production in the world.⁶⁴

⁶² The data for this table are from Hough's *Report upon Forestry*, p. 568. The band saw had not been introduced in 1877.

⁶³ Wolfe's *History of Clinton County, Iowa*, p. 685; Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 594.

⁶⁴ Wolfe's *History of Clinton County, Iowa*, p. 687.

The early sawmill industry, as indicated previously, relied almost solely upon water power and many of the smaller mills operating during the middle period continued to use water power, but as early as 1858 only two out of 12 sawmills in Scott County were water driven. In 1870, of the 545 sawmills in Iowa 401 were steam powered.⁶⁵

As improvement was made in the manufacture of steam boilers and engines, they were adopted for use in the larger mills. In 1866, W. J. Young and Company, of Clinton, built the "largest mill in the world".⁶⁶ It was driven by a 1,000 horse power steam engine. Between 1899 and 1914 the steam engine capacity employed in the lumber industry increased at the expense of water power,⁶⁷ a trend which earlier had been apparent in the Iowa branch of the industry.

The workers in the sawmill plants of the middle period were, according to one writer, mostly Germans who had just come to the United States. Another writer stated that the workers were largely German, Irish, and Swedish. These informants indicate that the mills operated from 10 to 12 hours a day for six days each week during the active season. The season began when the first log raft reached the mills in the spring and ended when the last logs of the season's "run" were cut.⁶⁸ The labor of the sawmill workers, as well as that of the woodsmen and rafting crews, was arduous. "But from their perilous labors came the fruit-

⁶⁵ Thomas P. Christensen's *An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa*, in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XXII, p. 118; *Ninth Census of the United States* (1870), *Industry and Wealth*, p. 517.

⁶⁶ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 588.

⁶⁷ Victor S. Clark's *History of Manufactures in the United States 1860-1914*, pp. 773-780.

⁶⁸ Communication from Geo. W. Cable of Davenport about the early sawmill industry at Davenport, January 22, 1941; communication about the early sawmill industry at Burlington from F. A. Millard, January 22, 1941.

age of a larger time when fine houses began to dot the prairies of Iowa".⁶⁹

According to F. A. Millard the usual wage for "men who carried boards" was \$1.25 per day. Men who had aptitude for handling machinery received \$10.00 to \$20.00 weekly and sawyers, \$5.00 a day. George W. Cable reported that wages ranged from 21 cents an hour for common labor to 35 cents an hour for skilled labor. An early publication⁷⁰ gives \$1.45 as the laborer's daily wage in Iowa industry about 1875. No record has been found of any labor troubles in the Iowa sawmill industry at this time nor of the existence of any organized labor groups composed of workers in the mills.

A complete list of the owners and operators of the important sawmills in Iowa from 1860 to 1900 would be formidable, as ownership of some plants changed several times. T. P. Christensen in writing about Scott County mills tells of one mill which was built in the 1850's by Renwick and Sons. Later it was reorganized as Renwick, Shaw, and Crossett and in the 1890's sold to Weyerhaeuser and Denkman.⁷¹

Some of the most important and largest mill companies which operated in Iowa river towns from 1860 to 1900 were as follows: Lansing Lumber Company, Lansing; W. and J. Fleming, McGregor; Zimmerman and Ines, Guttenberg; Knapp, Stout and Company, Standard Lumber Company, and M. H. Moore, Dubuque; Dorchester and Huey, Bellevue; Gardiner, Batcheler, and Wells Mills 1 and 2, Lyons Lumber Company, and David Joyce, Lyons (now North Clinton); Clinton Lumber Company, W. J. Young and

⁶⁹ Thomas Teakle's *The Romance of Iowa History* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XIV, pp. 165, 166.

⁷⁰ *Iowa State Gazetteer, Business Directory, and Farmer's List.*

⁷¹ Christensen's *An Industrial History of Scott County, Iowa, the Middle Period*, in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XXII, p. 290.

Company (The Upper Mill and The Big Mill), C. Lamb and Sons (The Stone Mill, The Brick Mill, Riverside Mill, and Lower Riverside Mill), Clinton; W. R. Anthony, Camanche; J. W. Strobeen (formerly Van Sant and Zebley), Le Claire; Lindsay and Phelps, Cable Lumber Company, Mueller Lumber Company, and Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann, Davenport; Musser Lumber Company, Hershey Lumber Company, and Muscatine Lumber Company, Muscatine; Berry and Company, Burlington Lumber Company, Cascade Lumber Company, and Island Lumber Company, Burlington; S. and J. C. Atlee, Fort Madison; Taber Lumber Company, Keokuk.⁷²

Most of the early sawmill operators in Iowa came from the east, chiefly from New England, New York, and Pennsylvania and had been reared in lumbering communities, or had been operators at eastern points before moving to Iowa.⁷³

After the pineries of Wisconsin had been depleted and could no longer supply a sufficient quantity of logs to Iowa mills, the plants, one by one, ceased to operate. A number of the sawmill operators, foreseeing the end of the sawmill era in Iowa, invested in timberland in other parts of the United States. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, of Davenport, went to Minnesota, thence to the Pacific Northwest to establish the great Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Gardiner, of Lyons, went to the pineries of Mississippi to become a partner in Gardiner, Eastman, and Company of Laurel, Mississippi. David Joyce, of Lyons, was interested in timberlands in Texas and Wisconsin. The Musser interests, of

⁷² Information concerning Davenport was derived from a personal communication from Geo. W. Cable, January 22, 1941. Information concerning Burlington was secured from F. A. Millard, January 22, 1941. Data for the remaining cities was secured from Blair's *A Raft Pilot's Log*, pp. 255-264.

⁷³ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 588.

Muscatine, moved, in part, to the long leaf pine country of southwestern Louisiana, and Artemus Lamb, of the C. Lamb and Sons concern in Clinton, although remaining in Clinton, became part owner of the Shevlin and Weyerhaeuser timber holdings in California and Washington.⁷⁴

In addition to the production of white pine lumber, the sawmills of Iowa also manufactured large quantities of shingles and lath. Other products⁷⁵ for the year ending May 31, 1880, were as follows:

Laths	79,924,000 pieces
Shingles	128,100,000 pieces
Staves (barrel)	5,335,000 pieces
Headings (barrel)	650,000 pieces

During the years in which the sawmill industry flourished in Iowa, dry kilns for artificial seasoning of lumber had not been introduced and all of the lumber produced was air seasoned. Some of the sawmills used no standard rules by which to grade the lumber produced, although these mills attempted to avoid the shipment of lumber which contained knotholes, shakes, or wane. Other mills adopted the grading rules of the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association and graded the output of lumber in conformity to these standard rules.⁷⁶

The lumber, which was produced in the large mills of Iowa, was consumed chiefly in Illinois, Iowa, and States to the west of Iowa. Although no consumption data are available for this period, it appears certain that the middle western States afforded the largest domestic market for lumber because the building of the Middle West was con-

⁷⁴ Hotchkiss's *History of the Lumber and Forest Industry of the Northwest*, p. 599.

⁷⁵ *Report on the Forests of North America*, Part 3, *Economic Aspects*, by Charles S. Sargent (U. S. Census), p. 487.

⁷⁶ Information from Geo. W. Cable and F. A. Millard.

temporary with the peak of lumber production in Iowa. The Iowa sawmills were close to the available markets which minimized the problem of distribution for the products of the industry.

RETURN OF THE SMALL SAWMILL—1910 TO THE PRESENT

After the close of the middle period, the importance of the sawmill industry in Iowa declined greatly as shown by the amount of lumber manufactured.⁷⁷ An unofficial count of Iowa sawmills was made in 1934 by the Department of Forestry of the Iowa State College. This survey accounted for 428 mills of all kinds and sizes in the State. A government publication reported but five sawmills for Iowa in 1928 and another government report two years later gave Iowa eleven sawmills.⁷⁸ A similar census for 1934 would probably have shown like figures. The discrepancy between the government report figures and those of the unofficial Iowa survey representing the number of mills may be explained by the fact that the United States Census Bureau does not count a sawmill unless the yearly production of lumber is in excess of 50,000 board feet.⁷⁹ Since the majority of Iowa sawmills at the present time are very small plants with a very limited yearly output, the Census Bureau fails to include many small mills in reports of the industry.

Practically no data are available relative to the present location of sawmills in Iowa, nor are data available which offer any information as to the number of mills in the

⁷⁷ See Table I.

⁷⁸ Paul W. Stewart's *Market Data Handbook of the United States* (U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Domestic Commerce Series, No. 30), pp. 292-303; Charles B. Eliot's *Manufacturing Market Statistics* (U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Domestic Commerce Series, No. 67), p. 461.

⁷⁹ Albert H. Pierson's *Lumber Production 1869-1934* (U. S. Forestry Service), footnote p. 71.

various counties of the State. Foresters who are acquainted with Iowa report that there are, at present, several small sawmills in almost every county. The industry is dispersed widely over the State with no important centers.

Table I indicates that for the past twenty-nine years hardwood species have comprised most of the raw material used by the sawmills of Iowa. The species chiefly utilized, on the basis of volume in board feet, have been oak, walnut, cottonwood, and elm. The production of walnut lumber affords some interesting contrasts. In 1913, Iowa sawmills produced 290,000 board feet of walnut lumber and in 1914 4,974,000 feet. The large increase probably was due to the demand for walnut gunstock material by the European nations which were engaged in World War I. The amount of walnut lumber produced dropped off by 1920, but increased to 7,399,000 board feet in 1924. This second rise in the volume of production seems to have been coincidental with the revival of the demand for walnut furniture. The production of walnut lumber continued to be large until the depression years. Since 1930, the volume of walnut lumber produced in Iowa has been low.

The principal species utilized in recent years are the same as those which supplied logs for the pioneer mills. This is true, despite the misuse which the forests of the State have undergone.

Most of the sawmills in Iowa for the past 30 years have been capable of producing rough lumber only. The equipment of the small mill has consisted of a circular saw and a log carriage, on which the log rests, which carries the log against the saw. Only a few mills have been equipped with edgers to remove the "waney" edges from the boards and to rip them into the desired widths. Machinery to refine the product beyond the rough sawed condition has been lacking almost entirely.

Such mills have a limited capacity ranging from one or two thousand board feet daily to a maximum output of about 10,000 feet. One of the larger plants operated in Boone until a few years ago, when it was destroyed by fire. The Amana colony, at Amana, has operated a mill of the larger size for many years.

In general, the sawmills now in operation in Iowa are either portable or semi-portable and may be moved from one location to another within a few hours or a few days time.

Prior to 1925, power was derived chiefly from portable steam tractors or from stationary steam boilers and engines. Since 1925, the power for driving the small mills of Iowa has usually been supplied by several forms of internal combustion engines. Some operators utilize old automobile engines as a source of power to drive both the saw and the carriage. Others use a tractor equipped with a pulley over which a drive belt operates. Small mills, generally, are underpowered and Iowa mills of the present appear to be no exception to the general condition.

The supply of labor necessary for the operation of the small mills in Iowa has been available, for years, in the communities in which the mills have been located. Most of the mills have been operated only intermittently and hence, have not offered regular employment. Because of this condition, and because there are so few sawmill workers in any one community, there has been little opportunity for any labor organization to exist.

Most of the sawmills which have been operated in Iowa for the past 20 years have been owned locally. Oftentimes, the owner has been a farmer who has operated the sawmill during slack periods, when farm work did not require his attention. In some cases, however, operators run their sawmills throughout the year. The Webster Lumber Com-

pany, with headquarters in Saint Paul, Minnesota, owns and operates a number of small units. These plants are located at places where sufficient timber may be purchased to make the operation profitable. The same concern also contracts to buy the output of numerous small privately owned mills and markets the products along with the material sawed by its own mills. This company reports that they had but one mill in operation in Iowa during 1940, employing ten men and producing 20,749 pieces of railroad ties and 107,873 board feet of lumber for the season. The daily capacity of this mill was averaged at 300 crossties and 1,500 board feet of lumber. This mill is located near Burlington.⁸⁰

Two products — crossties for railroad use and lumber — have comprised the greater part of the material produced by Iowa mills in recent years. The data shown in Table I include both crossties and lumber, the volume of ties produced having been converted into board feet for ease of recording.

RELATIVE POSITION OF THE SAWMILL INDUSTRY OF IOWA

From 1859 to 1889 the lumber production of Iowa and the United States increased at almost equal rates. Iowa's percentage of the total for the United States ranged from 2.25 to 2.77 for the period of three decades. From 1889 to 1909, the lumber production of Iowa decreased at about the same rate as the increase from 1859 to 1889.

During this same period of years, the total production of the United States continued to increase and the percentage of Iowa production to the national total decreased successively from 2.25 to 1.00, to 0.30. Since 1909 the production of Iowa has continued to decline until, in 1939, it amounted

⁸⁰ The Webster Lumber Company.— Private communication to the author, March 13, 1941.

to but 0.002 per cent of the total production of the United States. The rank of Iowa among the States in lumber production has decreased from 9th in 1879 to 44th in 1934 and 43rd in 1939.⁸¹

Until 1919 (Table IV), the rank of the lumber industry of Iowa among other industries in the State, based on the value of product, was high. For the half century, from 1859 to 1909, the value of product of the sawmill industry ranked no lower than fifth among all industries and, as late as 1919, it ranked 9th. Thereafter, the value of lumber products, resulting from decreased volume of production, declined to such an extent that for both 1929 and 1939 the industry was grouped with minor industries and lost its identity.

On the other hand the value of the products of the sawmill industry of the United States even for the past twenty years has given the industry a relatively high rank among all industries. From 1859 to 1909, the lumber industry in the United States ranked second, third, or fourth among industries in value of production. By 1919 it had dropped to ninth place and in 1929 it was eleventh in rank. In 1939 the sawmill industry ranked thirteenth in the national field. On the basis of value of product, the rank of the industry in Iowa and the United States kept apace from 1859 to 1919. In the latter year, the industry ranked 9th both in Iowa and the nation.

Before 1909, the only industries in Iowa which were of greater importance than the lumber industry, based on the value of product, as given in the reports of the Census, were agricultural manufactories. It seems incredible that

⁸¹ These data are from a communication from R. W. Nelson, Acting Chief, Division of Forest Economics, U. S. Forest Service, February 21, 1941; Albert H. Pierson's *Lumber Production 1869-1934*; *Biennial Census of Manufactures*, 1939, U. S. Census Bureau; *Preliminary Report, Industry*, No. 520 (U. S. Census Bureau, December 12, 1940). For additional statistics see also Haworth's *The Economic Development of the Woodworking Industry in Iowa*, pp. 79-118.

a prairie State should have had a sawmill industry almost as important as farm product manufactories. The reason, as indicated previously, lay in the northern pineries and not solely in the timberlands of Iowa.

TABLE IV
LEADING INDUSTRIES OF IOWA FOR SEVEN CENSUS YEARS⁸²

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Manufacture</i>	<i>Value of Product</i>
1859	1	Flour and meal	\$ 6,799,000
	2	Lumber, sawed	2,124,000
	3	Provisions, pork, etc.	756,000
	4	Boots and shoes	364,000
		All Iowa industries	13,971,000
1869	1	Flour and grist products	15,635,000
	2	Lumber, sawed	5,794,000
	3	Carpentering and building	2,981,000
	4	Carriages and wagons	1,952,000
		All Iowa industries	46,534,000
1879	1	Flour and grist mill products	19,089,000
	2	Meat packing	11,285,000
	3	Lumber, sawed	6,185,000
	4	Carpentering	2,280,000
		All Iowa industries	71,045,000
1889	1	Meat packing	19,615,000
	2	Flour and grist mill products	11,833,000
	3	Lumber, sawed	11,829,000
		All Iowa industries	125,049,000
1899	1	Meat packing	25,296,000
	2	Dairy products	15,846,000
	3	Flour and grist mill products	13,823,000
	4	Lumber and timber products	8,677,000
		All Iowa industries	164,617,000
1909	1	Meat packing	59,045,000
	2	Dairy products	25,850,000
	3	Foundry and machine shop products	14,064,000
	4	Flour and grist mill products	12,871,000
	5	Lumber and timber products	12,657,000
		All Iowa industries	259,238,000

⁸² Data given are from the various Census reports for 1860 to 1940.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Manufacture</i>	<i>Value of Product</i>
1919	1	Meat packing	226,865,000
	2	Dairy products	57,800,000
	3	Other food preparations	54,994,000
	4	Foundry and machine shop products	48,994,000
	5	Cars and general shop construction and repairs	33,099,000
	6	Printing and publishing	26,806,000
	7	Flour and grist mill products	21,325,000
	8	Bakery products	20,244,000
	9	Lumber and timber products	17,893,000
		All Iowa industries	745,473,000

LUMBER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN IOWA

Until 1922, accurate data for the consumption of lumber in Iowa were not available. Since that date, the United States Forest Service has gathered such data. Table V lists both the production and consumption of lumber for the even-numbered years from 1922 to 1938. Three conclusions may be drawn from these data:

(1) Iowa consumes a large volume of lumber yearly. In normal years the amount used approximates 500,000,000 board feet.

(2) The production of lumber in Iowa falls far short of the amount consumed.

(3) The board foot deficit each year is very great.

In 1926 (Table V), Iowa consumed 586,799,000 board feet of lumber for all purposes of which but 14,002,000 feet came from Iowa mills. During that year, a survey of the wood-using industries of the State revealed that these industries normally required 191,000,000 board feet yearly. The difference between the total amount consumed and the amount used by the industries was 395,799,000 feet. This difference represented material used for general construction and other purposes. The construction industry relies

largely upon softwood lumber which the sawmills of Iowa are unable to supply. The wood-using industries of the State, however, use large quantities of hardwood lumber which may be taken from local sawmills. If, in 1926, when the wood-using industries consumed 191,000,000 board feet of lumber, they had used the entire output of Iowa sawmills, there would have been a deficiency of 176,998,000 board feet. This deficit necessarily would have had to be brought into Iowa from other sections of the nation.

TABLE V

LUMBER PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN IOWA⁸³

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production Thousand Feet Board Measure</i>	<i>Consumption Thousand Feet Board Measure</i>	<i>Deficit Thousand Feet Board Measure</i>
1922	6,131	751,271	745,140
1924	12,149	649,128	636,979
1926	14,002	586,799	572,797
1928	13,908	584,105	570,197
1930	13,267	495,331	482,064
1932	2,015	180,167	178,152
1934	2,938	221,674	218,736
1936	4,303	478,975	474,672
1938	4,733	430,661	425,928

SUMMARY

The decline in the production of lumber in Iowa has been pronounced during the past 25 years. There are several causes for this condition.

First, there is less forest area. At the time of the original land survey of Iowa, 6,680,926 acres were classified as forest land. In 1935, the United States Census Bureau

⁸³ The data for all these years except 1938 were compiled by R. V. Reynolds and Albert H. Pierson and were printed in *Forest Products Statistics of Central and Prairie States*, Statistical Bulletin No. 73, U. S. Department of Agriculture, January, 1941. The figures for 1938 came from *Lumber Distribution and Consumption* by the same authors, Miscellaneous Publication No. 413, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

placed the total woodland area of Iowa at 2,312,244 acres, of which 2,060,105 acres were woodland pasture. Only 252,139 acres were classed as forest land not pastured.⁸⁴ This decrease in land area devoted to forests means less sawtimber, and in turn, fewer sawmills have been required to convert the available timber into lumber.

Second, the quality of timber to be found on the forested lands of Iowa at the present time is poor.⁸⁵ In 1939 Genaux and Kuenzel explained that the agencies "which reduce the quantity and quality of Iowa's timber stands are fire, grazing, improper cutting practices, insects, and climatic phenomena."⁸⁶ Continuous cutting of the best trees in the stands and these unfavorable agencies have resulted in depleted stands. There are fewer merchantable trees per acre than was the case when Iowa was colonized. As a result fewer sawmills have been needed.

Third, the wood-using industries of the State have been reluctant, in many instances, to purchase hardwood lumber sawed in Iowa. In 1926 C. L. Harrison asserted: "Iowa produced lumber will not regain its lost prestige until improved methods of sawing, grading, and seasoning have placed it on the same quality level as lumber imported from other sections of the United States." He also concluded that the Iowa market would absorb all of the local material available, "if the price is right and the product properly manufactured."⁸⁷ A survey conducted in 1937 by G. R.

⁸⁴ United States Census Bureau, *Farm Census Preliminary Report*, October 28, 1935.

⁸⁵ "Farm Forestry Plan for Iowa", an unpublished report by the Iowa Farm Forestry Committee, dated November 7, 1939. A copy of this report is on file in the office of the State Extension Forester.

⁸⁶ Genaux and Kuenzel's *Defects Which Reduce the Quality and Yield of Oak-Hickory Stands in Southeastern Iowa* in *Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin*, No. 269.

⁸⁷ C. L. Harrison's *Markets for Iowa Grown Timber* (unpublished Master's thesis, in the Library of Iowa State College, Ames).

Ramsey, State extension forester,⁸⁸ indicated that the wood-using industries would take Iowa lumber if it were properly manufactured. The need for better seasoning practices was mentioned by J. A. Loetscher⁸⁹ of Dubuque.

Steps to restore the forest cover on denuded and eroded land have been and are being taken. The Iowa State Planning Board recommended, in 1933, that certain forest and submarginal lands should be designated as forest lands.⁹⁰ At the same time G. B. MacDonald⁹¹ suggested the need for State and national forest lands in Iowa. Some progress has been made toward carrying out these suggestions. The United States Soil Conservation Service is promoting a program of wood-lot development for Iowa farms. These steps, if continued, should assure a greater land area in forests and, in time, greater volumes of raw material for the sawmill industry.

The quality of the growing stock on forest lands of the State should improve if the Soil Conservation Service and the State Conservation Commission are successful in their program to prevent forest fires and improve cutting practices. Better quality will result naturally in a great quantity of raw material for the sawmill industry.

To date, little has been done to improve the quality of the lumber manufactured by Iowa mills⁹² or to insure better seasoning methods for the lumber. As pointed out previously, the equipment of the mills is scant and of poor

⁸⁸ Data on file in the office of the State Extension Forester.

⁸⁹ Private communication from J. A. Loetscher to G. R. Ramsey, July 24, 1936.

⁹⁰ *Second Report of the Iowa State Planning Board, Part I, Land.*

⁹¹ G. B. MacDonald's *The Beginning of a National and State Forestry Program in Iowa* in the *Ames Forester*, Vol. XXV, pp. 15-20.

⁹² C. D. Jackson is said to have developed a new and improved portable sawmill.—Private communication to G. R. Ramsey, State Extension Forester, March 10, 1941.

quality. Small sawmills are manned, generally, by workers who lack a knowledge of lumber manufacturing and of proper seasoning methods. All agencies interested in the proper utilization of forest products might cooperate to provide for a better sawmill product.

The foregoing discussion indicates that the major problem of the sawmill industry in Iowa is not one of markets. Rather, it is a problem of providing suitable lumber for an already existing market.

GEORGE BERNHARDT HARTMAN

AMES IOWA

SOME PUBLICATIONS

The French in the Mississippi Valley 1740-1750. By Norman Ward Caldwell. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press. 1941. Pp. 113. Map. This volume was issued as No. 3 of Vol. XXVI of the *Illinois Studies in Social Sciences* and is also issued as a separate book in attractive binding. The contents are divided into five chapters—Political and Financial Administration of New France; Population and Industry; The Fur Trade; General Indian Relations; and The Indian Uprising of 1747 and the Ohio Question. A bibliography and an index complete this volume.

Earliest Picture of St. Louis is one of the articles in *Glimpses of the Past* for July-September, 1941, published by the Missouri Historical Society.

Martin P. Claussen and Herman R. Friis have compiled a *Descriptive Catalogue of Maps Published by Congress 1817-1843* which has been published by the compilers.

Indian Mounds State Fair Park, by Vetat Winn, and *General Aspects of Field Research*, by W. E. Erdman, are two articles in *The Wisconsin Archeologist* for September, 1941.

The Knights of the Golden Circle, *The Career of George Bickley*, by Ollinger Crenshaw, and *Who Elected Lincoln?*, by Joseph Schafer, are two articles in *The American Historical Review* for October, 1941.

Non-Economic Factors in the Frontier Movement, by Gilbert J. Garraghan; *Tomás de Guadalajara, Missionary of the Tarahumares*, by Peter M. Dunne; and *Pénicaut and His Chronicle of Early Louisiana*, by Elizabeth McCann, are the three articles in *Mid-America* for October, 1941.

Kansas Historical Markers; Letters on the War in Kansas in

1856, edited by V. E. Gibbens; and the concluding installment of *First Newspapers in Kansas Counties, 1879-1886*, by G. Raymond Gaeddert, are three articles in the November, 1941, number of *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*.

The History of America as a National Resource for Morale, an essay by George H. Forsyth, has been distributed in mimeographed form by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, at the suggestion of Dr. C. C. Crittenden, president of the American Association for State and Local History.

Volume XIX of the *South Dakota Historical Collections* contains a reprint in translation of the *First Journey to North America in the Years 1822 to 1824*, by Paul Wilhelm, Duke of Wuerttemberg, which was published in Germany in 1835. There is also some material concerning Duke Paul and *Dakota An Autobiography of a Cowman*, by W. H. Hamilton.

John H. Hauberg, president of the Illinois State Historical Society, has published an attractive booklet, *History and Memoirs of the Haubergs' Homestead Since the Indians Left 1851-1941*. The old homestead described is located in Rock Island County, Illinois, about twenty-five miles from the city of Rock Island and has been occupied by members of the Hauberg family since 1851.

Indians and French of the Inland Empire, by W. Freeman Galpin, one of the articles in the October, 1941, number of *Americana*, includes early Indian history of the Mississippi Valley and thus background material for Iowa history. This number also contains the final installment of *His Mother's Kindred* (genealogical material relating to the mother of Benjamin Franklin), by Ada Harriet Baldwin.

The week of November 10-16 was designated by American book dealers as American Guide Week, marking the completion of the *American Guide Series*. The Oklahoma volume recently issued completes the forty-eight State guide books. There are also guide books for the District of Columbia, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. The Iowa volume was published in 1938.

Indian Women as Food Providers and Tribal Counselors, by Leslie M. Scott; *Boone Family Reminiscences as Told to Mrs. Dye*, by Eva Emery Dye; *Commercial Routes from 1792 to 1843 by Sea and Overland*, by Oscar O. Winther; and *Twenty-five National Forests of North Pacific Region*, by E. H. MacDaniels, are four articles in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* for September, 1941.

The Missouri Historical Review for October, 1941, contains an inventory of distinguished Missourians under the title *They Came from Missouri and They Showed the World*, by Irving Dilliard. Two other articles in this number are *The Building of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad*, by Homer Clevenger, and a continuation of *The Iron Industry of Missouri*, by Arthur B. Cozzens.

Nebraska History for October-December, 1940, issued in September, 1941, is entitled the Sioux Memorial Issue. It includes *The Story of the Oglala and Brule Sioux in the Pine Ridge Country of Northwest Nebraska in the Middle Seventies*, by E. P. Wilson; *A Memorial to the Sioux Nation*, by Addison E. Sheldon; *People's Memorials — and Their Monuments*, by Gutzon Borglum; and *Red Cloud and the U. S. Flag*, by Major Charles W. Allen.

Darwinism Comes to America, 1859-1900, by Bert James Loewenberg; *The Government Land Surveyor as a Pioneer*, by Dwight L. Agnew; *Schuyler Colfax and the Political Upheaval of 1854-1855*, by Willard H. Smith; *The Appointment of L. Q. C. Lamar to the Supreme Court*, by Willie D. Halsell; and *Sea Voyage of a Forty-Niner*, by Sylvia F. Roper, are articles and papers in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for December, 1941.

Minnesota History for September, 1941, contains the following three articles: *The Federal Land Policy and Minnesota Politics, 1854-60*, by Verne E. Chatelain; *Early Minnesota Agricultural Societies and Fairs*, by Merrill E. Jarchow; and *Hudson's Bay Company Posts in the Minnesota Country*, by Grace Lee Nute. There are also: *The State Historical Convention of 1941*; *The Archives of Military Posts*, by G. Hubert Smith; and *Cass Gilbert and Wilbur Wright*.

The December, 1941, number of the *Journal of the Illinois State*

Historical Society contains the following articles and papers: *The Raising of Union Horses in Illinois During the Civil War*, by Aretas A. Dayton; *James Hall and the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Illinois*, by John T. Flanagan; *The Lake Michigan Water Diversion Controversy: A Summary Statement*, by Maurice O. Graff; and *Vermilion County in Illinois History*, an historical note by C. C. Buford.

The Origins of the War of 1812: A Survey of Changing Interpretations, by Warren H. Goodman; *Patterns of Mid-Nineteenth Century Urbanization in the Middle West*, by Bayrd Still; *The Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association*, by O. Fritiof Ander; and *Some Jefferson Letters*, by Sigmund Diamond, are articles and papers in the September, 1941, number of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*.

The North Dakota Historical Quarterly for July, 1941, contains the following papers and articles: *The Journal of La Verendrye, 1738-39*, translated and annotated by Henry E. Haxo; *The De Mores Historic Site*, by Russell Reid; *Address at the Dedication of the Memorial on Butte St. Paul*, by A. G. Burr; *Ranches in the Great American Desert*, by Usher L. Burdick; and *The Use of the Crude Hypochlorite Solution on the Plains of Dakota at the Time of Custer, and Its Use Today as Refined and Perfected by Dakin-Carrel*, by Dr. John Duncan Taylor.

Ante-Bellum New Orleans as an Agricultural Focus, by Wendell H. Stephenson; *Pre-War Nazi Agrarian Policy*, by James W. Miller; *The Farm Journals, Their Editors, and Their Public, 1830-1860*, by A. L. Demaree; *Oklahoma Oil and Indian Land Tenure*, by Gerald Forbes; *Artesian-Well Irrigation: Its History in Brown County, South Dakota, 1889-1900*, by Marc M. Cleworth; and *Crop Husbandry in Eighteenth Century England*, by G. E. Fussell and Constance Goodman, are the articles which make up *Agricultural History* for October, 1941.

The September, 1941, number of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* contains the following articles and papers: *Camp Lincoln*, by the Illinois Writers' Project; *English Settlers in*

Illinois, by Grant Foreman; *Canton College — An Early Attempt at Higher Education in Illinois*, edited with an introduction by Mildred Eversole; *Lincoln Was Tough on Officers*, by Don Russell; *The Illinois State Historical Society*; *Old Masterpieces Discovered in the Corn Belt*; and *Illinois' First Showman*.

Clement Fall LeFevre, D. D., and 'Hazelwood' Homestead, by Theodore L. Coleman; *Early Navigation on Fox and Wolf Rivers and Lake Winnebago*, by W. A. Titus; *The Hudson Fire of 1866*, by Willis H. Miller; *Pocahontas and Jamestown*, by Louise Phelps Kellogg; *General Rufus King and the Capture of John H. Surratt*, by Duane Koenig; and *The Beginning and Early Years of the Mission House*, by J. J. Schlicher, are the articles in *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, for September, 1941. There is also the concluding installment of *Letters of Charles Richard Van Hise*.

The Colonial Dames of America sponsored the history of Illinois recently published by A. C. McClurg & Co. under the title *Illinois Grows Up*. Mrs. Frances L. Blatchford and Mrs. Lila W. Ermingier, both members of the Colonial Dames society and residents of Illinois, are the authors. The volume is attractively printed and bound and is delightfully illustrated in color by Louise Parsons Stanton. It is written for children between the ages of eight and twelve and is divided into twenty-six chapters arranged according to the letters of the alphabet. For example, the first chapter is "The Algonquins"; the last is "Zeal".

The October-December, 1941, issue of *The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* contains the following papers dealing with medical history in Ohio from 1835 to 1858: *Some Bibliographical and Research Aids to American Medical History*, by Philip D. Jordan; *Jared Potter Kirtland, M. D., "The Sage of Rockport"*, by George M. Curtis; *The Introduction of Anesthesia into Ohio*, by Anne L. Austin; *The Organization of the Ohio State Medical Society and Its Relation to the Ohio Medical Convention*, by Donald D. Shira; *Local Boards of Health in Ohio During the Period 1835-1858*, by Robert G. Paterson; and *The Worthington Medical College*, by Jonathan Forman. There is also *A Hopewell Sculptured Head*, by Richard G. Morgan.

IOWANA

Jack Wolfe, managing editor of the *Iowa Jewish News*, is the author of *A Century of Iowa Jewry*.

Midwest Media for November, 1941, has an article, *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*, with an airplane view of the city.

The State Conservation Commission has recently issued a booklet entitled *Iowa's State Parks, Reserves and Recreation Areas*.

The Alumnus of Iowa State for September-October, 1941, contains a brief history of the college under the heading *From Prairie to Beauty Spot*.

The annual report of Cedar Falls for 1940-1941 has been issued in pamphlet form under the title, *Your City Government*. The brief historical sketch is by Roger Leavitt.

The Iowa Historical Records Survey has recently issued an inventory of the county archives of Taylor County. This is Number 87 of the *Inventory of the County Archives of Iowa*.

Memories of Columbus City, Iowa, by Eleanora Garner Colton, was published in pamphlet form as one of the features of the centennial celebration of Columbus City. Mrs. Colton, who died on August 28, 1941, had lived in Columbus City since 1845.

The Lt. Moses and Jemima Clement Kimball Family, compiled by Pauline Kimball Skinner, includes genealogical material on a number of Iowa families. Among these are the Smith family in Madison County, and the Davis family. It was published by William N. Cann, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware.

The Medical History of Palo Alto County, prepared by Clara Antoinette Rasmussen, is continued in *The Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society* for October, November, and December, 1941. The December number also contains the *Life Work of William B. Peck of Freeport, Illinois*, by Dr. Henry G. Langworthy.

Antoine LeClaire, the First Proprietor of Davenport, by Charles Snyder; *William B. Allison*, by William R. Boyd; *The Circuit*

Courts of Iowa, by Gordon L. Elliott; *Letters*, written by John McCleary, Timothy Davis, D'Arcy A. French, and Samuel S. Sambersen; and *Edgar R. Harlan*, by Ora Williams, are articles and papers in the October, 1941, number of *The Annals of Iowa*.

The Trinity Parish at Iowa City has recently published *One Hundred Years of The Episcopal Church in Iowa City*, compiled by the Junior Church School Class under the direction of Russia G. Harris, the teacher. In addition to the history narrative, there is an introduction by the Rector, the Reverend Richard E. McEvoy, a series of notes, a list of the rectors who have served the parish, and lists of memorials and endowments.

Pioneer Recollections, containing stories and pictures of pioneer life in Iowa County, has been published recently in book form by the Historical Publishing Company of Cedar Rapids. The compiler is Harley Ransom. The volume includes among many short articles, a poem, *The Pioneers*, by J. P. Gallagher, a *History of Iowa County*, by C. J. Monahan, and *A Record of the Events Experienced During Our Journey From Germany to North America in 1854*, by Henry Maas.

Volume 37 of the *Iowa Geological Survey* contains, in addition to the reports for the years 1934-1939, the following papers: *The Pleistocene Gravels of Iowa*, by George F. Kay and Paul T. Miller; *Pollen Analysis of Integral Peats of Iowa*, by Geo. H. Lane; *The Geology of Adams County*, by Lyman W. Wood; *Mineral Production in Iowa for the Years 1933-38*, by H. Garland Hershey; and *A Summary of Mineral Production in Iowa 1895-1938*, also by H. Garland Hershey.

The Iowa Farmers Union has issued a memorial volume entitled *Milo Reno Farmers Union Pioneer The Story of a Man and a Movement*. The volume was compiled by Roland A. White, manager and editor of *The Dubuque Leader*. The book contains, in addition to biographical material on Milo Reno, valuable accounts of incidents in the farmers' revolt of the early nineteen thirties, such as the "Cow War" and the farm holiday. There are reprints of newspaper tributes to Mr. Reno and quotations from his speeches.

The 1940 Bob-White Season in Southeast Iowa, by Robert Moor-
man and George O. Hendrickson; and *Notes on Winter-Killing of
Central Iowa Bob-Whites*, by Paul L. Errington, are articles in
Iowa Bird Life for September, 1941. The December number in-
cludes the following articles: *The Northern Cliff Swallow in West-
ern Iowa*, by Bruce F. Stiles; *Walter Melvin Rosene — Naturalist*,
by Walter W. Bennett; *The Last Chicken Hunt*, by Walter M.
Rosene; and a biographical sketch of Carl Fritz Henning.

The Iowa State Horticultural Society has recently issued a col-
lection of biographies entitled *Pioneers in Iowa Horticulture*, writ-
ten by Kent Pellett. The first chapter describes some of the pio-
neer orchardists in Iowa — Louis Honore Tesson, Julien Dubuque,
George Davenport, and Antoine LeClaire. The remaining ten chap-
ters tell of Henderson Luelling, Suel Foster, J. L. Budd, G. B.
Brackett, C. G. Patten, Jesse Hiatt, H. A. Terry, Elisha Gallup,
Eugene Secor, and Louis H. Pammel. Material on such men is
small in proportion to their contribution to the pleasure of living
and books like these are a valuable addition to the history of Iowa.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

“Preacher’s Wife”, new biography by Ethel Hueston, tells of
Powelson family of Centerville and Mt. Vernon, in the *Ames
Tribune*, August 22, 1941.

Raiders left a trail of blood in Davis County in 1864, by Donald R.
Murphy, in *Wallaces’ Farmer-Iowa Homestead*, August 23,
1941.

Observation of Muscatine United Brethren Church ninety-eighth
anniversary, in the *Davenport Democrat*, August 24, 1941.

Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Sabin, once a resident at old Ft. Atkinson, is
dead, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, August 26, 1941.

Early State and county fairs in Iowa, in the “True Tallcorn Tales”
series, by M. Coverdell, in the *New Era News* (Mediapolis),
August 26, 28, 1941.

Some historical facts of Spragueville recalled for centennial, in the *Clinton Herald*, August 27, 1941.

Discovery of mastodon's tooth near Ashton, in the *Sheldon Mail*, August 27, 1941.

Death of Jesse Miller, attorney and former district court judge, in the *Des Moines Register*, August 27, 1941.

Beginnings of the River Products Company producing limestone near Iowa City, in the *Montezuma Republican*, August 28, 1941.

Early pioneers of Crawford County, by F. L. Hoffman, in the *Denison Review*, August 28, 1941.

"The Development of Education in Van Buren County", by H. E. Cantrell, in the *Cantril Register*, August 28, 1941.

Kate Shelley's own account of trip to save wreck of train at Moin-gona on July 6, 1881, in the *Ogden Reporter*, August 28, 1941.

Death of Horace G. McMillan, prominent Republican in the nine-ties, in the *Knoxville Journal*, August 27, 1941.

Hayesville has annual "Joy Day", in the *Oskaloosa Tribune*, August 28, 1941.

Marker sets off grave of Milton Lott, first white child to die in Boone County, in the *Ogden Reporter*, August 28, 1941.

Early newspaper history of Lee County, in the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

Historical issue of the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

First fruit orchard in Iowa was located at Montrose, in the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

Short sketches and pictures of prominent pioneers of Lee County, in the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

Samuel L. Clemens is listed as antiquarian in old Keokuk city directory, in the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

Death of Mrs. Eleanora Colton, author of "Memoirs of Columbus City", in the *Muscatine Journal* and the *Burlington Hawk-eye-Gazette*, August 29, 1941.

Many Iowans joined rush for land when Oklahoma's "Cherokee Strip" was opened forty-eight years ago, in the *Nevada Journal*, August 29, 1941.

Picture of the J. C. Hubinger mansion of Keokuk, in the *Keokuk Gate City*, August 29, 1941.

Plaque to Kate Shelley dedicated at celebration of Ogden's seventy-fifth anniversary, by Donald Grant, in the *Des Moines Register*, September 6, 1941.

Sidelights on Senator Howard Baldwin, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, September 7, 1941.

Edward Streepy inducted into Grand Army of the Republic at ninety-seven years of age, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, September 8, 1941.

Data on Mormons in Appanoose County, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, September 8, 1941.

Old Indian canoe dug from Missouri River in 1862, in the *Sioux City Tribune*, September 9, 1941.

Miss Beatrice Weller, cartoonist lecturer, is from Nashua, in the *Nashua Reporter*, September 10, 1941.

Judge McKay presided in "cabin-courthouse" in Wayne County in 1852, in the *Seymour Herald*, September 11, 1941.

Spragueville celebrates 100th birthday, in the *Preston Times*, September 11, 1941.

Cupola on caboose originated in Iowa, in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, September 14, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Frank I. Herriott, professor at Drake University, in the *Des Moines Register*, September 15, 1941.

Nicolai A. Ibsen, brother of playwright Henrik Ibsen, is buried near Estherville, in the *Estherville News*, September 17, 1941.

The Van Buren County courthouse at Keosauqua in the "True Tallcorn Tales" series, in the *Milton Herald*, September 18, 1941.

Death of Judge Daniel F. Coyle, originator of Lawyers Chautauqua, in the *Des Moines Register*, September 18, and the *Spencer Reporter*, September 19, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Carl F. Henning, long-time custodian of Ledges State Park, in the *Boone News Republican*, September 19, 1941.

Early pioneer recounts hardships in establishing home in Warren County, in the *Indianola Record*, September 19, 1941.

Origin of Iowa Corn Song, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, September 20, 1941.

Joshua C. Pearce, National Chaplain in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the *Davenport Democrat*, September 21, 1941.

First free school west of the Mississippi River at Tipton has centennial, in the *Muscatine Journal*, September 24, 1941.

Le Claire Presbyterian Church celebrates 100th anniversary, in the *Davenport Times*, September 24, 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Huebsch of Strawberry Point observe golden wedding anniversary, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, September 25, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Leslie O. Worley, prominent in educational circles, in the *Solon Economist*, October 2, 1941.

Vernon Mack, a direct descendant of Chief Black Hawk, is a cadet in the United States army, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, October 3, 1941.

The builders of public square buildings at Fairfield, in the *Fairfield Ledger*, October 4, 1941.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Minnesota Historical Society observed its ninety-second anniversary on October 20, 1941, having been incorporated in 1849. It is now the oldest institution in the State.

A special exhibit featuring Indian medicine and surgery was provided by the Wisconsin State Historical Museum for a recent convention of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

The Louisiana Historical Society held a monthly meeting at New Orleans on October 30, 1941. The Reverend Victor J. Dossogne discussed "Phases of the War in Belgium and France" and there was a symposium on "The War in Washington".

Dr. Solon J. Buck, formerly Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, has been made Archivist of the United States, to succeed R. D. W. Connor who resigned as Archivist to become Professor of American History and Jurisprudence at the University of North Carolina.

The Kansas State Historical Society held its sixty-sixth annual meeting at Topeka on October 21, 1941. James C. Malin delivered the presidential address on the subject "Introduction to the History of the Bluestem Pasture Region of Kansas". There was also a display of materials relating to the cattle industry.

The first annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History was held in Hartford, Connecticut, on October 8, 1941. "Raising the Standards of Historical Society Work" was discussed by Harlow Lindley, Henry James Young, Edwin W. Small, and Thomas M. Owen, Jr. One session was devoted to "A Publication Program for Historical Societies", with discussion by C. K. Shipton, Milton W. Hamilton, and Solon J. Buck. The Association publishes *The State and Local History News*.

The Minnesota Historical Sites and Markers Commission and the

Department of Anthropology of the University of Minnesota are jointly sponsoring a State-wide archaeological and historical survey. The work is under the direction of Richard R. Sackett of St. Paul and is divided into three sections: a re-examination of the archaeological materials collected from 1881 to 1895 by Alfred J. Hill and Theodore H. Lewis; research in libraries and in the field for data on historic sites; and the preparation of studies on special topics, guides, and similar materials for publication.

The American Historical Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the American Association for State and Local History, the American Catholic Historical Association, the American Economic Association, and the American Political Science Association held meetings at Chicago on December 27-31, 1941, including a number of joint programs. The program of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association included an address, "Let's Study the History of Mudville", by Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. A joint session with the American Historical Association was devoted to Frederick Jackson Turner and included an address entitled "An Appraisal of Frederick Jackson Turner as a Historian", by Avery O. Craven, and "Turner's Frontier Hypothesis in the Light of Modern Criticism", by George W. Pierson.

The sixty-seventh annual meeting of the Michigan State Historical Society was held at Ludington, Michigan, on August 16, 1941. George N. Fuller was the leader in a discussion of the topic, "Federation of Local Historical Societies". "The Role of the Museum in Local History" was discussed under the leadership of Charles H. Yates, of the Muskegon County Museum. Willard C. Wichers, secretary of the Netherlands Pioneer and Historical Foundation, Holland, Michigan, led the discussion of "The Role of the Specialized Society in Local History", and Stuart Porter, State Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey, was in charge of the discussion of "The Federal Records Survey Project in Local History". Trustees were elected and the board reelected George N. Fuller as Secretary. Richard Clyde Ford was chosen President of the Society. After their business meeting the group visited the

death site of Pere Marquette near Ludington. At the dinner in the evening the main address was given by Rev. Fr. P. J. Lomasney, S. J., of Chicago, who spoke on "Marquette in Michigan".

IOWA

The old home built at Iowa City by Robert Lucas, Iowa's first Governor, has been purchased by the State of Iowa and will be used as an historical museum. Possession is to be given in April, 1942.

In August, 1941, a plaque was dedicated to mark the site of the "Old Church Tree" in Van Buren County under which were held the first church services among the settlers west of the Mississippi River. This was in August, 1837.

The Polk County Historical Society held its third annual meeting at Des Moines on October 4, 1941. Ray C. Stiles was elected president, J. E. Howard, vice president, J. A. Wilbois, secretary, Gladys Bradford, financial secretary, and H. C. Plummer, treasurer.

The Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters has reorganized as the Woodbury County Historical Society. D. S. Lewis was chosen president, C. S. Van Eaton, vice president, C. C. Fowler, treasurer, and Mrs. R. A. Henderson (Gertrude Henderson), secretary. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month.

The Union County Historical Society held its annual meeting at Creston on October 4, 1941. The chief speaker was Kenneth E. Colton of Des Moines. The following officers were elected: Burt Tyler, president; Ray Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Henry Carolus, secretary and treasurer; W. G. Wilson, curator; and Grace Harsh, historian.

The research work on the history of Fort Atkinson in Winne-shiek County is being carried on under the direction of Professor S. S. Reque of Luther College. Foundations of the guardhouse, settlers' store, and other buildings long since disappeared, have been located by careful excavation. It is hoped that at least one building can be restored to be used as a museum.

Persons interested in local history met at McGregor on October 15, 1941, to hear Mr. Walter H. Beall, of West Union, vice president of the newly organized Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, who spoke on the need for local societies. Mr. Royal H. Holbrook, of Cedar Rapids, also spoke. A committee of three persons was appointed to draft articles of incorporation and report at a second meeting held on October 29th.

In response to the movement for more interest in local history and preparation for the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the State of Iowa in 1946, a number of counties have recently organized historical societies. Among these are Buchanan, Cerro Gordo, Guthrie, O'Brien, Osceola, and Union. It is hoped that a more complete list of these societies, together with their presidents and secretaries, can be given in the April number of the JOURNAL.

The Iowa Conservation Commission has already purchased some five hundred acres of land near McGregor at the mouth of the Yellow River to serve as a national monument where about one hundred Indian mounds may be preserved. Additional acreage is to be added as soon as arrangements can be made. The selection of the mounds to be preserved was made by Dr. Charles R. Keyes of Mount Vernon, State Archeologist. One of the mounds on the area is 140 feet long and 70 feet wide.

The Jasper County Historical Society held its seventh annual banquet and business meeting on December 5, 1941. Miss Ellen Hartnett, county superintendent of schools, gave a resumé of county history. Judge Frank Shankland and Mr. Ora Williams, Curator of the Iowa Department of History and Archives, both of Des Moines, were other speakers. Mrs. Mark Shaw of Monroe was elected president, J. R. Rhodes of Newton, vice president, Fred E. Meredith of Newton, secretary, and W. I. Price of Baxter, treasurer.

On September 5, 1941, Ogden celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary and the program was centered around the dedication of the memorial plaque in honor of Kate Shelley. Lieutenant Governor B. B. Hickenlooper presented the plaque. It was Kate Shelley, a

fifteen-year-old girl, who saved a Northwestern passenger train from going through a bridge into the river on July 6, 1881, by crawling across a bridge in the darkness and warning the railroad men. One of the representatives of the Shelley family was Jack Shelley, newscaster of WHO, a nephew of the heroine, who accepted the plaque.

Representatives of local historical societies and others interested in Iowa history met at the Savery Hotel in Des Moines on October 11, 1941, and completed the organization of the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies. The morning program consisted of an address by Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, who was introduced by Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa. At the luncheon Mr. Ora Williams, Curator of the State Department of History and Archives, presided and introduced the speakers. Governor George A. Wilson, Chief Justice Frederic M. Miller of the Iowa Supreme Court, and Miss Jessie M. Parker, Superintendent of Public Instruction, appeared on the luncheon program. The articles of incorporation were presented by Mr. Remley J. Glass of Mason City, and adopted. Officers elected were: Mr. Henry K. Peterson of Council Bluffs, president; Mr. Walter H. Beall of West Union, vice president; Mrs. Gertrude Henderson of Sioux City, secretary; and Mr. Remley J. Glass of Mason City, treasurer. Directors at large are: Mr. Homer L. Calkin, Clearfield; Mr. Francis I. Moats, Indianola; and Mr. Richard C. Leggett, Fairfield. Directors chosen to represent the congressional districts were: First District, Mr. John H. Bailey, Davenport; Second District, Mr. S. S. Reque, Decorah; Third District, Mr. Leon S. Barnes, Northwood; Fourth District, Mr. P. A. Johnson, Grinnell; Fifth District, Mr. A. C. Graybeal, Des Moines; Sixth District, Miss Bessie L. Lyon, Webster City; Seventh District, Mr. O. J. Pruitt, Council Bluffs; and Eighth District, Mrs. C. M. Mohler, Sac City. Directors for the State Historical Society of Iowa, appointed by the Board of Curators, are Miss Ethyl E. Martin and Mr. John E. Briggs; Directors for the State Department of History and Archives are Mr. Ora Williams and Mr. Kenneth E. Colton.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Dr. Ruth A. Gallaher, Associate Editor of the State Historical Society, spoke to the Ashley Chapter of the D. A. R. at Cedar Rapids on October 11, 1941. Her subject was "Historic Homes in Iowa".

Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, spoke to the Emmetsburg branch of the American Association of University Women on November 22, 1941. Her subject was "Extending Our Horizons".

Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, was reëlected president of the Iowa Authors' Club at its annual meeting at Des Moines on November 22, 1941. The other officers, also reëlected, are: Harvey Ingham of Des Moines, first vice president; Margaret Gode of Des Moines, second vice president; Gernie Hunter of Perry, treasurer; and Maud Hicks Hickman of Centerville, secretary.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. L. S. Anderson, West Newton, Mass.; Miss Maria Blechschmidt, Amana, Iowa; Lt. Joseph P. Connolly, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. John Crookham, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Sister Mary Evelyn, Remsen, Iowa; Mr. J. R. Eyre, Mount Vernon, Iowa; Mr. Eugene Henrion, Oskaloosa, Iowa; Mr. Lloyd A. Howell, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr. Edward W. Anderson, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. H. C. Haynes, Centerville, Iowa; Mrs. J. M. Hitchings, Davenport, Iowa; Mrs. R. S. Johnston, Columbus City, Iowa; Mrs. W. A. Myers, McGregor, Iowa; Mr. Carl W. Petersen, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. James Thomas Craig, Oelwein, Iowa; Mr. M. N. Jacobs, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Ruth Leupold, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. W. T. R. Smith, Clinton, Iowa; Miss Nelle Thompson, Ames, Iowa; and Mr. George Zimmerman, Chicago, Illinois.

The following have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. Allan F. Beck, Mason City, Iowa; Mr. Geo. D. Koser, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. J. L. Swift, Marengo, Iowa; Miss Cora I. Gund, Marcus, Iowa; and Rev. Frank A. Mullin, Washington, D. C.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Maurice held an old settlers' picnic on September 1, 1941, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town. The celebration included a display of antiques.

The Southwest Iowa Pioneer Association held its annual reunion at Shenandoah on October 3, 1941. W. E. Gaston was elected president; William Kemp, vice president; Guy L. Pond, secretary; and Mrs. George Blackburn, treasurer.

The Moingona old settlers held their annual homecoming at Moingona on August 31, 1941. Relics were on display. Frank Prescholdt of Manilla was reelected president and Walter Stephney of Moingona was chosen secretary.

Old settlers at Magnolia held their fifty-seventh annual meeting at that town on August 21, 1941. The chief speaker was Hugh Tamisiea of Missouri Valley. D. A. Van Cleave of Missouri Valley was elected president, and Miss Alice Lenz secretary.

The Iowa Library Association held its fifty-second annual conference at Ames on September 6-19, 1941. Speakers included Mrs. Horace M. Towner, W. W. Waymack, Frank Luther Mott, Charles H. Brown, John T. Frederick, W. Earl Hall, Bob Burlingame, and Paul Engle. Officers elected for 1942 are: Evelyn Spencer Bray, president; Frances Warner, first vice president; and Ruby Taylor, treasurer.

The Iowa State Teachers Association held its 88th meeting at Des Moines on November 5-7, 1941, with a long program and an attendance of some 12,000 teachers. Arthur C. Deamer, Superintendent of Schools at Cedar Rapids for the past twenty-one years, was elected president; Carl T. Feelhaver of Fort Dodge, vice president; and Ernest A. Zelliot, director of business education in the Des Moines schools, treasurer. Agnes Samuelson is the executive secretary.

Fred L. Mahannah, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction from 1927 to 1938, and Assistant Curator of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives since 1938, died on October 12, 1941. Mr. Mahannah was born at North English, Iowa, on August 18, 1874, and was a graduate of Cornell College. He was county superintendent of Cerro Gordo County from 1906 to 1911, State Normal Training School Inspector from 1911 to 1916, and Superintendent of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home from 1916 to 1920.

CONTRIBUTORS

MARCY G. BODINE. Born at Peoria, Illinois, on September 24, 1905. Educated in the Peoria public schools. Received a B. S. degree from Bradley College in 1928, the M. A. degree from the State University of Iowa in 1935, and the Ph. D. degree from the same institution in 1938. Member of Pi Gamma Mu and Phi Delta Kappa. Is now in the Department of History, Western State Teachers College, Macomb, Illinois.

GEORGE BERNHARDT HARTMAN, Ames, Iowa. Born at Eddyville, Iowa, on November 28, 1894. Educated in the public schools and at the Iowa State College. Received the degree of B. S. in 1917, M. S. degree in 1941, majoring in Forest Utilization. Member Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Alpha Zeta, the Society of American Foresters, Iowa Academy of Science, and the State Historical Society of Iowa. Served in the U. S. Army, 1917-1919, Instructor in Forestry at the A. E. F. University, Beaune (Cote d'Or), France, engaged in the wood preserving industry, 1919-1935, since 1935 Assistant Professor of Forestry at the Iowa State College. Author of articles in *The Ames Forester*, 1922, 1928, and 1936.

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IOWA EDITORS AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Since the founding of the first Iowa newspaper at Dubuque on May 11, 1836,¹ the United States has been engaged in five wars — the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the first World War, and World War II. During the Mexican War editorial opinion was expressed in a score of Iowa newspapers, which in 1848 were equally divided between the Whigs and the Democrats. On the eve of the Civil War, in 1860, 104 newspapers were being published in Iowa, 35 of which were Democratic, 59 Republican, and 10 Independent.² The overwhelming majority of these newspapers supported the Union throughout that desperate struggle although at least one Iowa editor languished in a Federal penitentiary on a charge of disloyalty.³ In 1898 and again in 1917 the Iowa press, without regard to creed, race, or party, vigorously supported the national government in its prosecution of the war. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, more than five hundred editorial pens bitterly lashed out at this treachery and pledged unswerving loyalty to the "all-out" effort to win the war.⁴

¹ Petersen's *Du Buque Visitor* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 117-128.

² Mott's *A Partial Study of Early Iowa Newspapers* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XVI, pp. 222-233. There were ten newspapers in Iowa in 1846 and twenty in 1848.

³ Gue's *History of Iowa*, Vol. IV, pp. 180, 181. Dennis A. Mahoney, editor of the *Dubuque Herald* and an able political writer, was arrested by a United States Marshal on the night of August 14, 1862, and incarcerated in a Federal prison in Washington, D. C.

⁴ Petersen's *Remember Pearl Harbor* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XXIII, pp. 33-46.

The whole-hearted support of the war effort in Iowa is a tribute to the broadminded character and patriotic outlook of the average Iowa editor. About one-half of these editors classify themselves as "Independent"; of the remainder the Republican newspapers outnumber those listed as Democratic by more than two to one.⁵ A large majority of the Republican and Independent editors did not favor President Roosevelt's domestic policy. Many did not see eye-to-eye with him in his handling of foreign affairs. Despite these differences of opinion Iowa editors have been united in demanding a vigorous prosecution of the war to a victorious conclusion. All are agreed that partisan politics must be adjourned, that the most able men in the nation must be called upon to serve, and that a square deal be given Mr. John Q. Public, whether cast in the rôle of capitalist or laborer, farmer or manufacturer, merchant or consumer, selectee or taxpayer, soldier or civilian.⁶

Of the 21,473 newspapers and periodicals published in the United States in 1941 a total of 659 were published in Iowa. Fully 559 of these were newspapers — 46 dailies, 14 semi-weeklies, 498 weeklies, and a paper published thrice monthly.⁷ A study of the editorial comment in the Iowa press during the first three months of World War II presents a fairly accurate cross-section of opinion throughout the Hawkeye State.

⁵ *Iowa Official Register*, 1941-1942, pp. 231-257. This volume contains a list of Iowa newspapers arranged by counties and another alphabetically arranged. The political character of the paper is indicated under each arrangement. The frequency of publication, day of publication, and the name of the editor or publisher are also given.

⁶ The writer consulted over four thousand editorials printed in fully half the newspapers of the State in the preparation of this article.

⁷ N. W. Ayer & Son's *Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, 1942, pp. 3, 298. This valuable compilation gives terse but valuable data on each Iowa town in which a newspaper is published. In addition it gives the year the paper was established, its subscription rate and circulation, the name of the editor and the publisher, and the width, depth, and number of columns.

These newspaper editorials do not represent merely an agricultural point of view; one sometimes forgets that the value of manufactured products in Iowa totaled \$718,418,350 in 1939 compared with a valuation of \$728,506,000 on farm income in 1940. Nor ought one to consider Iowa a purely isolationist area with editorial comment devoted largely to local affairs. The *Des Moines Register*, which finds its way into half the homes of Iowa, has exhibited a world outlook rivaling that of such newspapers as the *Baltimore Sun*. Four of Iowa's newspaper editors have been awarded a Pulitzer prize — Verne Marshall of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, E. P. Chase of the *Atlantic News-Telegraph*, W. W. Waymack of the *Des Moines Register*, and Frank Luther Mott, a former editor of a weekly newspaper and now Director of the School of Journalism at the State University of Iowa. Numerous weekly newspapers have won national distinction — the *Traer Star-Clipper*, the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, the *Sheldon Sun*, and the *Hamburg Reporter* being prominent among those winning recognition by the National Editorial Association.⁸

As individuals the editors of these Iowa newspapers, be they great or small, invariably attain a position of leadership in most of the cities and towns of Iowa. They represent various phases of religious, political, and intellectual life in their communities. The dailies gather news from the four corners of the globe as well as from the forty-eight States of the Union. Both dailies and weeklies record births, marriages, and deaths in the old home town, the advent of visitors and the departure of fellow townsmen, the humdrum as well as the social activity of the community. To the small town editor comes the preacher with his week-

⁸ The factual data concerning newspapers hereinafter cited is based on information taken from the *Iowa Official Register*, 1941-1942, and Ayer's *Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, 1942.

ly church notice, the doctor or dentist with his professional card, the merchant or businessman with his advertisement, the agriculturalist with the farm sale problems, the county treasurer with his delinquent tax list, the publicity chairman of a women's club with her notice of some noted speaker, and Mrs. Grundy with her spicy gossip. Rich man or poor man, preacher or pagan, teacher or tramp, socialite or socialist, all gain ready admission to the sanctum of the country editor. His office is indeed the meeting place of democracy in its purest form and the editor is the very symbol of democracy itself.⁹

FAREWELL TO ISOLATION

The outbreak of World War II sounded the death knell of "America First" sentiment in Iowa as well as in the nation. In a front page editorial entitled "United We Stand!", the *Cedar Rapids Tribune* excoriated the "deep ignorance" of the Japanese leaders and of Hitler for failing to take into account the "American spirit and American national philosophy" which had brought a "near-miracle to pass" in the form of "100 per cent unification of the American people over night."

"Taking as an indication of national weakness the fact that American public opinion is almost invariably divided on any and every question, and that the nation is a miscellaneous mixture of people, races and religions such as is

⁹ *The Iowa Publisher* for February, 1942, believed the weekly editor had a real job ahead in serving his country. "The job calls for assuming now, if never before, an active leadership in community affairs that is simply inherent in the very nature of successful newspaper publishing. It may mean more than an arm-chair philosophizing about what should be done. It may mean active participation in canvassing, public speaking and the like.

"As the war goes on there will be a need for community morale building in every town in America that the chain radio and the metropolitan newspaper will not be able to handle completely. . . . No one knows more about how that can be done than the editors and publishers in their respective communities."

found nowhere else on the globe, Hitler seems to have prodded Japan into picking a fight with us on the assurance that she could give us a knockout blow before a fighting spirit could be aroused here. . . .

“How amazed the fuehrer must have been when he was told that the Congress which had been half-and-half divided on the question of American foreign policy last Saturday, came out Monday with a unanimous decision (poor goofy Jeanette’s vote doesn’t count) for all-out war against Japan—and, by implication, all-out war against Nazi Germany too! With what astonishment must Hitler have learned that the ‘low morale’ of our young men resulted in their jamming every Army and Navy recruiting office on Monday morning. . . .

“And we Americans learned a good deal about Americans too. We learned that the good old American motto, ‘United we stand,’ is still in full force and effect whenever there arises a need that we should stand united.”¹⁰

A western correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun* was astonished at the transformation of sentiment in so-called isolationist Iowa, with special reference to the town of Hampton. “Most of these farmers have never seen any ocean,” he wrote, “and more often than not they have drifted into the isolationist camp. But once aroused to a national emergency, the average dirt farmer out here will strain his guts to do his part of the required business—and more.”¹¹

The entire western hemisphere was welded together after Pearl Harbor. “Totalitarians”, the *Atlantic News-*

¹⁰ The Cedar Rapids *Tribune* (Established 1904, Independent Republican and Labor, Circulation not given), December 11, 1941.

¹¹ *The Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Established 1837, Independent Democrat, Circulation 152,401, morning; 163,083, evening; 221,491 Sunday), March 3, 1942. The item is in the form of a despatch from Hampton by “Our Great Plains Correspondent”.

Telegraph declared, "who expected to see the United States, or even all the Americas, divided on the issue of war, must have received a shock at the reaction of the western world to the unprovoked attacks on the Hawaiian Islands. There can be no misunderstanding of such facts as the declaration of war by most of the countries in the western hemisphere, and the closing of some recruiting offices early on Monday, because of inability, at the moment, to handle any more applicants for admission into the armed services of the country. If the Japanese, and behind them the Nazis, had depended upon disunity as an ally, they must be badly disappointed at the result of their attack, upon the morale of the western people. The defeat at Pearl Harbor did more to cement the western world together than all the good neighbor policies and all the preaching that had been done in the months before the attack."¹²

The isolationists were pummelled from pillar to post by many editorial blasts. "It is not necessary, nor even expedient", the *Des Moines Register* declared on February 12th, "to give any great attention at this stage to the occasional efforts which will be made, by those who were farthest 'out on the isolationist limb' Dec. 7, to save their faces. We are much too busy now with the war itself. With respect to the important things, they were clearly mistaken. With respect to some minor things, naturally, their views happened to coincide with the views of those who did see the war coming."

This same editor believed we would have been in an "unthinkable predicament" if we had followed the isolationist "line" from the beginning. "We should probably have by now no useful allies anywhere in the world. We should be hemmed in not merely by Japanese control of the western

¹² *Atlantic News-Telegraph* (Established 1871, Independent Republican, Circulation 4649), December 11, 1941.

Pacific, therefore, but also by Nazi control of everything eastward. We should not have outposts in the North and Middle Atlantic. We should not have been able to keep South America with us. Our conversion and expansion of industry for war purposes doubtless would have lagged very considerably behind the present rate, because of the illusion of security in isolation. And so on and so on.

“In short, we should be sitting on a mighty hot ‘island’ between two unfriendly oceans, with even our Panama and Caribbean back doors under the muzzles of aggressive, power-mad conquerors—Or else we should already be at war with the rest of the world—*and alone!* . . . Because we did get into motion, even if cumbrously and reluctantly, before the sleeping potion of isolationism had really paralyzed and trapped us—because of that, we have today *a fighting chance.*”¹³

Less charitable and far more pointed was the *Independence Conservative*. “In the senate, the other day,” the editor remarked, “we were edified by a statement by the arch isolationist Senator Wheeler that military reverses in the far east bear out former statements of his that our country is not prepared for war. What he did not go on to say was that had it not been for him and his kind who carried their pre-war obstruction to the verge of treason we would be far better prepared than we are.”¹⁴

¹³ *The Des Moines Register* (Established 1849, Independent, Circulation 177,464), February 12, 1942. On April 2, 1942, *The Des Moines Register* quoted its circulation at 183,573, that of the *Des Moines Tribune* at 136,146, and the *Sunday Register* at 379,026.

¹⁴ *Independence Conservative* (Established 1855, Democratic, Circulation 1650), February 11, 1942. A Jackson County editor was inclined to agree that Burton K. Wheeler and his “henchmen”—Nye, Lindbergh, Clark, and Hamilton Fish—had done everything humanly possible to lead the country to the brink of destruction. “Mistakes no doubt have been made but it makes one shudder to contemplate the position this nation would be in today had the advice of Burt Wheeler and his colleagues been carried out.”—*Bellevue Herald* (Established 1887, Democratic, Circulation 1120), February 17, 1942.

No Iowa Senator or Representative can fail to recognize the personal significance of the scoreboard of the votes on measures affecting the preparedness program and United States foreign policy as compiled in the *Des Moines Sunday Register*.¹⁵ This chart clearly revealed that the majority of Iowa's Congressmen were isolationists, a fact further emphasized by Harlan Miller's comment in *Over the Coffee*.¹⁶

Many Iowa editors apparently intended to carry the war record of political candidates to the polls. "We plan to support candidates for office", a Decorah editor declared, "who are whole-heartedly for the defense program and whose past records indicate they have been for defense consistently and sincerely. . . . As we view the situation, the entire Iowa congressional delegation with the exceptions of Senator Herring, Democrat, and Karl M. LeCompte and Paul Cunningham, both Republicans, did not support national defense until the war declaration."¹⁷

The Davenport *Daily Times*, agreeing that the "America First" kind of politics was "automatically adjourned for the duration", attributed our involvement in war to the fact that "our military and naval program had been so sabotaged by congress over the years that the Japanese were encouraged to fight us, believing they could destroy our Pacific fleet and defenses before the nation could mobilize itself for the hard pull of producing the weapons necessary to the final defeat of the axis. . . .

"Memory of the support which the America First has already given to isolationists in the house and senate will

¹⁵ The *Des Moines Sunday Register* is sold in all ninety-nine counties in Iowa and unquestionably represents the most influential newspaper in the Hawkeye State.

¹⁶ *Des Moines Sunday Register*, March 22, 1942.

¹⁷ *Decorah Journal* (Established 1864, Independent, Circulation 2949), January 29, 1942, quoted in the *Des Moines Register*, February 11, 1942.

linger long after the organization is dissolved. Nothing that these politicians can now do will overcome the liability under which they must labor, for their political opponents in next year's elections will cite their record."¹⁸

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE

In addition to the isolationists Iowa editors singled out those blasé, complacent individuals of the "It Can't Happen Here" persuasion, who suddenly found their Shangri-La topple down upon them. "Do you remember", queried the *New Hampton Tribune*, "some who said it could not happen here, when Hitler's forces overran small nations of Europe, did so much damage in England, made a heavy conquest in Africa? Do you think the friends of the Axis would not like to bomb the iron ore docks at Duluth and other docks on the Great Lakes? Do you think our great cities of this central west and even our smaller towns are not to be concerned? It can happen here unless we destroy the power of the enemy."¹⁹

As each reverse was reported in the press the gloom of the nation deepened. And with each report Iowa editors were inclined to bristle at those armchair strategists who had claimed to know all the answers.

"The German sub invasion of American waters", one editor declared, "is sufficient answer to the wise boys who insisted that Hitler couldn't invade the United States, that we were perfectly safe so long as we minded our own business and built up our defenses. Remember that old query, 'If Hitler can't get across the English channel, how can he cross the Atlantic?' The authors of that bit of wisdom are

¹⁸ *Daily Times* (Davenport, Established 1886, Independent Republican, Circulation 25,357), December 9, 1941.

¹⁹ Quoted in the *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, January 15, 1942. The *New Hampton Tribune* was established in 1876, is "Independent" in politics, and has a circulation of 2936.

now asking why we aren't prepared. They insisted that the only wise policy of the government was to sit back and let the war take its course. Now that we are definitely in it through no act on our part, they criticize lack of preparation.

"The isolationists who referred to 'Mr. Roosevelt's war' are now super-patriots, but they are in no position to criticize the government for lack of adequate preparation." ²⁰

An Algona newspaper, incensed at the efforts of former complacent editors to attribute the woes of the nation to their political opponents, was inclined to indict "all" for this country's unpreparedness. "If we remember rightly most people, republicans and democrats alike, were against the suggestion of a two-ocean navy a few years ago and when attempt was made to fortify Guam in the Pacific it was not the administration who stood against it. . . . We all know that even three years ago if any attempt to arm such as is now going on, had been advocated by President Roosevelt, he would have been marked by all of us as a real 'war monger' and deposed from office. It is true we were not prepared, but let's let the blame rest on all of us, for there is where it rightfully belongs. As a matter of fact we all thought we were living in a civilized world and not on the outskirts of hell." ²¹

A northwestern Iowa editor felt it was time that Americans realized they were sitting on the brink of an inferno. Overconfidence of United Nations lost Singapore, allowed German battleships to escape from Brest, and led to the disastrous surprise on Pearl Harbor. "This lesson has been repeated so many times in recent months that it ought to begin to seep in on those high in control of allied planning.

²⁰ *The Rolfe Arrow* (Established 1914, Independent, Circulation 986), February 5, 1942.

²¹ *Algona Upper Des Moines* (Established 1865, Independent, Circulation 2950), February 17, 1942.

It ought also to begin to seep in on the people that this war is no tea party affair but a real battle to the finish with no quarters either asked or given. It will determine the destinies of nations for generations to come, and these destinies cannot be trusted to listlessness or hopeful wishing. Action, offensive and aggressive, is the only thing that can win.”²²

APPEASEMENT

The inevitability of World War II was recognized by most editors after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Although he could not help reminding his readers of President Roosevelt’s “positive assurance” during the campaign of 1940 that American troops would not fight on foreign soil, an independent editor admitted that we would have been drawn into the struggle no matter who had been elected President.²³ The inevitability of the struggle with all its gruesome implications came like a cold shock. The *Des Moines Tribune* recalled President Roosevelt’s speech at Chicago in 1937 when he warned that if the “present reign of terror and international lawlessness” could come to pass in other parts of the world, America itself would not escape. “We didn’t want to take the trouble or the risk of ‘quarantining the aggressors’ then, and now our odds in manpower have declined from 9 to 1 to about 2 to 1 — and on all the present fighting fronts our side is actually outnumbered in fighting men and outclassed in volume of equipment.”²⁴

²² *Cherokee Daily Times* (Established 1870, Independent, Circulation 3392), February 14, 1942.

²³ *Afton Star-Enterprise* (Established 1879, Independent, Circulation 1200), February 5, 1942. This conclusion had been voiced in 1919 by a *Des Moines Register* editorial which prophesied “There will be no neutrals in the next world war.”—See Aman’s *Views of Three Iowa Newspapers on the League of Nations* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 248.

²⁴ *Des Moines Tribune* (Established 1881, Independent, Circulation 135,639), February 5, 1942.

Instead of attempting to "quarantine the aggressors", the *Osceola Sentinel* declared, the State Department had carried on a "silk glove" diplomacy which failed in its purpose. "For a number of years we sold to Japan steel, scrap iron and gasoline in an effort to keep peace in the far east. Newspapers throughout the land pointed to the inconsistency of such a program and the danger involved. We sympathized with China and at the same time supplied her enemy with the implements of war. While doing so, the wily Japs, getting ready for an assault on the United States, a conflict that for years appeared inevitable, built up a reserve of gasoline, airplanes manufactured out of material we sold them; ships and ammunition with which to make the dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor.

"We furnished the material with which Japan for the time being created superiority in air, on water and land in the far east. There's nothing to be gained by mourning over events that have happened as result of our appeasing foreign policy with Japan. We must make up in intensity of effort that which we lost through misguided international diplomacy." ²⁵

Another editor viewed this appeasement policy in much the same light. "Much of the material being used to further this conquest was furnished by the peoples they are attacking who for years have sought to appease them by acceding to all of their demands. We will now have to pay for that pacific policy with thousands of lives and billions of money. It will take the Allies a year or more to prepare to meet them on even terms and meantime we must expect unfavorable news from the fighting fronts in the Far East." ²⁶

²⁵ *Osceola Sentinel* (Established 1859, Republican, Circulation 2875), February 12, 1942.

²⁶ *LeMars Sentinel* (Established 1870, Republican, Circulation 2677), February 13, 1942.

After tasting the bitter dregs of defeat for more than two months most Iowa editors could express themselves forcefully on the relative merits of isolation versus international coöperation. "The series of disasters which have taken place in the Pacific", the *Adair News* observed, "are a grim testimonial to more than 20 years of blindness, inefficiency and wishful thinking on the part of this country, England and other democracies. So far as the fighting quality of the United Nations troops are concerned, we need have no qualms. It is a fact that in every instance where those troops have met Axis troops on anything resembling even terms, they have emerged victorious. A relative handful of American and Filipino soldiers under the great General MacArthur have held off a Japanese army estimated at more than 200,000 men — and they have done that with almost no hope of relief or aid. The tragedy is that MacArthur and other leaders were given so little to work with. We delayed, we refused to read the writing on the wall, we practiced business as usual and politics as usual and strikes as usual, and so the defeats we have suffered became inevitable." ²⁷

ENEMY NATIONS

Once embroiled in the world conflagration Iowa editors commenced taking stock of our adversaries and allies. Since Hitler and his Nazi hordes were generally looked upon as Public Enemies No. 1 much editorial comment was directed toward Germany as the leader of the "gangster" nations. For years Iowans had been reading that this was an economic war in which the "have-not" nations were simply trying to gain a place in the sun. But the *Tama News-Herald* had little patience with those who pointed to

²⁷ *The Adair News* (Established 1882, Independent, Circulation 1200), February 13, 1942. The *Iowa Official Register* lists this paper as Republican.

the economic bankruptcy of the Fascist nations. "A lot is being said about the so called 'Have-not' nations. Yet, these 'Have-nots' have been able to build up such tremendous armaments that now they have the world in a frightful war. These nations could have had a-plenty if their energies had been devoted to peaceful pursuits of business. These nations have had the wrong leadership. Leaders who wanted to work for the benefit of the common man couldn't hold their jobs and were replaced by criminally minded men. These false leaders have one way and one only. It is not the way of peaceful business. Their method is to go out and steal all that can be stolen. But, even when they go out and steal, they do not divide the loot with the people. The loot is simply used to build up more armaments for more stealing. This banditry, of course, can be carried on only when the people are subjected to the most brutal despotism under which there is not a hint of liberty for the common man. The frightful cost of the war could have made all nations of the world prosperous for many years to come." ²⁸

Some editors thought that Iowans must look deeper than Hitler if they wished to discover the underlying cause of the war. "Kaiser Wilhelm", the *Knoxville Express* pointed out, "was the scapegoat of the German militarists just as Hitler will be made the scapegoat when the crash eventually comes in this war. This force behind Hitler is made up of generals and other high officials who will desert him when the proper time comes and try to make a peace that leaves Germany intact as it was before the war started. They will blame the poor Austrian rabble-rouser for starting the war and he will be destroyed. Hitler is but a pimple on the face of an ulcered Germany with the deep infection

²⁸ *Tama News-Herald* (Established 1866, Non-partisan, Circulation 2321), February 5, 1942. The *Iowa Official Register* classifies this paper as Independent Democrat.

far rooted in the government. As in the last war peace will be attempted with little or no loss to Germany proper. A few years will pass and again the Prussian thought will rise against a world stupified by the vision of peace and the promise of disarmament. . . . Peace will come and there will be cries from Germany that the threat of Hitler has been removed for all time, but until the decent nations of the world remove the rotten core of German militarism and conquest deep-seated in the nation, there can be no peace. Like an iceberg, Hitler is only the part that shows above the water — the dangerous seven-eighths lies out of sight.”²⁹

The matter of war guilt was recognized by virtually all. It was the “long lasting stigma” which had been placed upon the leaders and the people that appalled the *Sioux City Journal*. “It is perfectly true”, the editor pointed out, “that the nazi obscenities under the Hitler regime will put a stigma on the German people that will be there for a long time after this conflict is ended. Likewise will the Italians suffer because of what Benito Mussolini has done in his role as a jackal premier. And as for the Japanese, it seriously is doubted that as a people and a government they ever shall be able to put themselves in a favorable light in the eyes of western civilization, especially that part of it represented by the United States of America.”³⁰

To those Iowans who were disposed to hold the German people guiltless or who looked for a speedy collapse within the Reich the *Marion Sentinel* raised a restraining finger. “Americans are being warned by people who have had a

²⁹ *The Knoxville Express* (Established 1865, Democratic, Circulation 2340), February 26, 1942. This Iowa editor agrees with the English Lord Robert Vansittart who has recently asserted that some re-education of German leaders would be necessary before militarism could be eradicated from German life. — See *News Week*, March 30, 1942.

³⁰ *Sioux City Journal* (Established 1870, Independent, Circulation 53,003), February 8, 1942.

chance to form authoritative opinions, not to expect any collapse in Germany back of Hitler. The people of Germany may not all want this war, but they are in it, and have nothing else to do but carry on. Any other course would be suicide for the individuals and groups starting trouble. And the Germans personally are not suffering. It is the people in the countries over-run by the Germans who are feeling hardship and death from lack of food and shelter. Americans may as well prepare for a long, hard war. Germany will not be whipped until over-run by armies from outside. This war will have to be taken to the German people themselves and it begins to look like we are the folk who will draw the assignment of taking it there.”³¹

Although bitterly condemning Hitlerism, many editors asserted that it would not be necessary to “hate” before America could win. “Hate never got any nation very far, nor any individual either”, the *Keota Eagle* observed. “Hate is what a criminal feels when the forces of law close around him. Hate is what Hitler feels toward England and America and Russia. But that isn’t what we feel toward the misguided peoples who wage war on us. Despicable as they seem to be, treacherous as they undoubtedly are, they are but tools in the hands of higher-ups”.³²

A veteran of World War I, Earl E. Houdek of the *Rockford Register* gave a definite “No!” to this matter of hate. “This writer”, Houdek writes, “was in World War No. 1 and he never hated anyone, and to the best of our knowledge neither did any of the other 221 men in our battery of heavy artillery. We didn’t hate the Germans any more than an officer of the law has a personal hatred for the criminal he is tracking down. . . .

³¹ *The Marion Sentinel* (Established 1880, Independent, Circulation 1975), February 5, 1942.

³² *The Keota Eagle* (Established 1875, Independent, Circulation 1173), February 12, 1942.

“We accepted the responsibilities of the army not because we hated anyone, but because we loved our country and because we wanted to protect that country from those who sought its destruction. We hated the ideologies of those who fought on the other side, but we had no individual and personal hatred for our enemies.”³³

Hate might be decried by the editorial pen but the *Sioux City Journal* of February 28, 1942, doubted whether the “millions” of enslaved Europeans facing “famine and starvation” would ever know any other feeling. Basing his information on the report of the Interallied Committee which was too well “documented” to be considered “propaganda” the editor wrote: “The Germans have carried out a systematic program of pillage in every country conquered. Streams of food have flowed into Germany from Denmark, Norway, the low countries, France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Greece.” After pointing out that Greeks were dropping dead in the streets from starvation, that the French race was in danger because of starvation, that conditions were “simply terrifying” in Belgium, that Poles were “boiling down the bark of trees and the skins of dead animals”, that virtually all countries were eating dogs and cats, the editor concluded: “No wonder we receive reports in this country that ‘a tidal wave of hate’ against the Germans is sweeping over Europe. Robbed of their heritage of freedom when the nazis marched in and conquered them, these suffering peoples now starve that their conquerors may be fed. It is a perfect setup for hate, which in the circumstances is a perfectly natural and justified emotion.”

The pictures of starvation victims in Poland depicting “bloated, emaciated bodies of children” and showing “piles

³³ *Rockford Register* (Established 1887, Independent, Circulation 825), January 29, 1942.

of human carcasses awaiting burial" was revolting to the editor of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. Although they reminded the editor of the "atrocities reports" of World War I, he felt they were "easier to accept as factual because of the known record of the Nazis."³⁴

The *Charles City Press* was amazed that Americans still remained "who sympathize with the career of Hitler" after being confronted with such tales of abject suffering and death.³⁵ "Hunger is the order of the day, death the only punishment for infraction of the rules laid down by the German masters", the *Des Moines Tribune* declared on February 13th. "All opposition to the 'New Order' has been pitilessly crushed and the closed frontier keeps the world from looking in. What a prospect for the world, if Hitler should win the war!"

Despite these gloomy pictures the La Porte City *Progress Review* praised its readers for maintaining a good sense of balance. "A pleasant difference between this war and the last one is the almost complete absence in this community at least of any animosity toward our citizens of German descent. We haven't started calling hamburger 'liberty sausage', we still ask for sauerkraut when we want it, and there has been no move to force abolition of German services in churches attended by the older people who still feel more at home at services conducted in that language. One reason, perhaps, is that our German population is now on the average at least a generation farther away from the old country, with the result that there is less of a natural lingering affection for the old homeland than at the time of the first world war. More important, though, is the fact that most of us have approached this war with much less

³⁴ *Cedar Rapids Gazette* (Established 1883, Independent, Circulation 44,344), March 1, 1942.

³⁵ *Charles City Press* (Established 1896, Republican, Circulation 3728), February 24, 1942.

emotionalism than we did the last time, and common sense leads us to realize that the vast majority of our German people are among the sturdiest, most loyal Americans in the country.”³⁶

Although a vengeful mood marked most editorials concerning Hitler and his jackal-like accomplice, Iowa editors did not lose their sense of humor. Thus, when the *Northwood Anchor and Index*³⁷ objected to the “too generous” use of the adjective “lousy” and the verb “stink” the *Winterset Madisonian* felt constrained to query, “But what descriptive adjectives are strong enough to express meaning when we wish to speak of the Fuehrer, who started the world wide war of brutal aggression, and then invoked the blessing of Deity? Or how shall we express our opinion of the slant-eyed villains who pretended a peace parley at Washington in order that their Sunday morning attack in the Pacific might be more effective?”³⁸

The bitter attitude toward the perfidious Japanese did not diminish in the three months following Pearl Harbor. Indeed, most editors were quick to lash out at anyone who advised the use of silk gloves or urged discretion. When the Reverend James P. Gable of the First Methodist Church at West Branch protested against the use of a sign in the Des Moines navy recruiting office that read, “Jap Hunting Licenses Issued Here”, and a Des Moines minister advised the American people not to become incensed at the

³⁶ *La Porte City Progress Review* (Established 1870, Independent Republican, Circulation 1325), January 29, 1942. The *Sumner Gazette* of February 19, 1942, welcomed the greater tolerance exhibited by Americans compared with the “intense hate” built up during the first World War against the German people, their language and culture. The *Sumner Gazette* was established in 1880, is Independent Republican, and has a circulation of 1175.

³⁷ *Northwood Anchor and Index* (Established 1885, Independent Republican, Circulation 2070).

³⁸ *Winterset Madisonian* (Established 1856, Republican, Circulation 2319), December 31, 1941.

“aggressor dictators” but rather to exercise a “forgiving spirit” so that a “righteous peace” might be negotiated when the war is over, there were emphatic protests.³⁹ “We’re for a righteous peace, all right”, asserted one Buena Vista County editor, but he added: “If we have any red corpuscles in our veins, and the writer thinks we have, we’ll not quit this frightful war until we’ve blasted Tokyo and Berlin as the nazis and Japs have blasted Warsaw, Rotterdam, London, Manila, Chingsha—yes, and let’s not forget the infamous attack at Pearl Harbor!

“After that’s done and we’ve compelled the aggressors to sue for peace, we must make such a world-wide arrangement that civilization will not have to go to war every 25 years to preserve itself from destruction.

“If this be treason, make the most of it.”⁴⁰

Since Iowans had been hearing about the so-called “Yellow Peril” for forty years, the editor of the *Mitchell County* (Osage) *Press* was not surprised at the “deceitful treachery” of the Japs.⁴¹ Many editors were inclined to think that this was but a temporary advantage which the United States would speedily overcome as it rallied its forces for offensive warfare. As the weeks passed and the Japs infested the Philippines and pursued their relentless course down the Malayan Peninsula, it gradually dawned on Iowans that the so-called “experts” had greatly under-

³⁹ *The Des Moines Register*, January 10, 15, 1942.

⁴⁰ *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune* (Established 1870, Independent Republican, Circulation 2975), February 5, 1942. A Humboldt County editor was inclined to agree with this “at least in spirit” but at the same time felt it was more important to make the world “safe” than to make the dictators suffer. Nevertheless, the editor concluded, a man who couldn’t “feel righteous wrath is of little value.”—*Humboldt Republican Independent* (Established 1889, Republican & Independent, Circulation 4550), February 13, 1942.

⁴¹ *Mitchell County Press and Osage News* (Established 1865, Republican, Circulation 2560). The term “Yellow Peril”, like many other catch phrases, is of course an unfortunate generality. The Chinese, who make up more than three-fourths of the “yellow race”, are not aggressors.

estimated the perfidious Orientals. "Somewhere along the line", the *Allison Tribune* records, "we got the idea he was only a toothy, smiling, obsequious little guy whom we could brush off anytime we felt like it — just as we'd get rid of a pestiferous mosquito — but it isn't so. Instead of letting our cartoonists depict him as an Axis understudy we might have been wiser had we drawn him as the wily, vicious and efficient menace that he is."⁴²

The *Emmetsburg Democrat* was inclined to agree with this view. "For too long a time", the editor declared, "our white folks have underestimated the fighting ability of the yellow man. We are today learning a good lesson for having too much pride in ourselves. The Jap, while he is fighting in his own back yard and has every present advantage in numbers and equipment, is still proving that he is a foe worthy of being considered seriously. There is no doubt that both the Japs and the Chinese have courage that compares well with any other nationality or race."⁴³

As the days passed and Japanese successes continued, many editors demanded to know why we were so grossly misinformed by our military and naval experts. "Just why we did not know more about what they were doing is not known", declared the *Afton Star-Enterprise* on January 29, 1942. "Surely our intelligence department could have found out. We let many Japs into this country, allowed them to roam about at will. They attended our institutions of learning. You hardly ever saw a Jap in the city of Washington, D. C. who did not carry a camera. It was common knowledge that they took many pictures and sent them to officials in Japan. Any person who could add two and two together knew they were planning an attack against

⁴² *Allison Tribune* (Established 1880, Republican, Circulation 1174), February 18, 1942.

⁴³ *Emmetsburg Democrat* (Established 1884, Democratic, Circulation 2721), January 29, 1942.

this country. But we were not ready when the attack was made. If we had been ready the attack would not have been made. That is all water over the dam, though. We have been functioning just like a big, fat, lazy, rich democracy and now we are going to have to pay for our indolence. We are gradually waking up and as soon as we get going the war news will be better. It will sound better just as soon as we start winning, but we are going to have to get ready first. The men may have been asleep at Pearl Harbor but they were snoring no louder than we were right here in the U. S. A.”

There were other papers, like the *Jewell Record*, that felt Iowa editors were too critical of American military leaders. “The military leaders of this country were doing a good job, with what tools they had. Everything America had in the way of fighting tools, on land, in the air and on the sea is better than anything any other nation has; only we don’t have as much of it. The American people wanted it that way, properly, and we would not have had it different. The only place for being critical, and that of ourselves, is that we did not demand that our government stop pretending neutrality about two years sooner than it did, and start arming.”⁴⁴

Iowa editors were not inclined to underestimate the wily Jap. Many of them disagreed with Churchill and Roosevelt that the Japanese were secondary and that Hitler was Enemy No. 1. “Highest ranking enemy of the United States in this World war is Japan”, the *Logan Observer* declared. “There are many who, accepting this as a fact, believe this country’s first all-out job is to put all of everything we have into wiping the Japanese off the face of the world.” After pointing out that Japan had clearly demon-

⁴⁴ *Jewell Record* (Established 1882, Republican, Circulation 650), February 5, 1942.

strated that the United States was her primary foe the editor urged that we aim our men and war machines at our chief target.

“This country need not worry about others of the Axis. Germany is in no position to do us any great injury and Italy, of course, is out of it. Japan is far superior to them on the oceans, and directly and indirectly that is where the war must be fought and won. The Japanese navy is a threat that we shall do well to recognize.

“Our first big task is to give Japan the drubbing it deserves. With that out of the way we can help take over the job our Allies have. Unless we do concentrate on that one big essential we shall continue to suffer as we have been since Japanese aggression started on December 7. Japan plainly has shown what it is about. We should be smart enough to read the map it has made for us and to act accordingly.”⁴⁵

The *Woodward Enterprise* also expressed itself in “disagreement” with the plan of turning most of our energies against Hitler. “We consider the Japanese every bit as an important a foe—perhaps a little more so at the present time for this country.

“It is our opinion that the Japanese action was taken, not at the command of Hitler, but as a step to get all she can get while the war in the west was being fought. The imperialistic yearnings and action by Japan over the last score of years is quite evident. They were in formulation and were being enacted before Hitler gained control of the German Reichstag. . . .

“In our opinion, both fronts are equally important. And it seems to us our major war at the present is in the South Pacific. Surely the combined forces of Russia and Britain

⁴⁵ *Logan Observer* (Established 1884, Republican, Circulation 800), January 29, 1942.

with auxiliary allies should be able to keep the Nazis pretty well occupied.”⁴⁶

Although the *Red Oak Express* felt that the defeat of Hitler would determine the outcome of the war, it could not dismiss the gravity of the Japanese threat. “Since the fall of Singapore and the gradual but inevitable fall of the Indies”, the editor declared, “the Jap warlords are now promising to DESTROY UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND. That is no idle threat. The Japs have long despised the United States. They have outwardly professed friendship but inwardly awaited the day they could destroy us. . . .

“Japan, fired by early victories is confident of her ability to smack us down. That our government underestimated her strength is certainly true. Japan is a formidable foe with great striking force and one that will require all of our strength and ingenuity to hold off until we are prepared to take the offensive.”⁴⁷

⁴⁶ *Woodward Enterprise* (Established 1885, Independent Republican, Circulation 854), January 29, 1942.

The possibility that Japan may have spoiled Hitler's game was advanced by a Jackson County editor. “Hints from Europe have it that the Japs annoyed Herr Hitler no end when they took the bull by the horns and made the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7th. By their sneaking action, people of the United States were united in a common cause, the very thing that the expaper hanger wished to avoid. . . . Had the Japs delayed their attack, in all probability this country would not be at war today and congress would still be at its dilly-dallying that made it famous throughout the world last summer and fall.”—*Bellevue Herald*, February 3, 1942.

⁴⁷ *Red Oak Express* (Established 1868, Republican, Circulation 3475), February 16, 1942. Three days later the same editor declared: “Tiny Japan is making a monkey out of the giants. She has moved troops, warships, supplies three thousand miles from her home base almost at will. No wonder her premier shakes a defiant fist and warns the smug Englishmen and Americans that his yellow people are going to knock us out. The Japs have cause to boast.” After pointing out the disparity in population and resources of Japan when compared with the United States and Great Britain, the editor concluded: “WE, with all our vastness and self sufficiency are being taunted and shoved around by this arrogant brat. . . . Once we were going to blow him out of the sea in three months. Since Pearl Harbor we have run for cover.”

THE ALLIES

The attitude of Iowa editors to the allied nations — Britain, Russia, Holland, China, and South America — was almost uniformly favorable. Russia, of course, prior to Pearl Harbor, had run the gamut of editorial comment from bitter hatred to sheer admiration for her heroic stand against Hitler. After December 7th, even the most hostile editors began to realize that the fate of this nation might well be decided by Russia's success or failure against Germany. On the very day Pearl Harbor was bombed the Most Reverend Archbishop Francis J. L. Beckman of the Dubuque Diocese released for publication a letter he had sent to Archbishop Curley of Baltimore commending that prelate for his attack on President Roosevelt's "abominable aid-to-Russia" policy. "The statement", Archbishop Beckman declared, "is most timely; for we have had a good deal of muddled thinking and muddled leadership in this desperate business of courting Communism, of whitewashing and canonizing Soviet murderers."⁴⁸

Four days later, however, the "official organ of the Archdiocese of Dubuque" observed in a front page editorial that war had come despite the hopes of the people for peace. The editor concluded: "Coöperation among all groups must supplant differences that were legitimate before the declaration of war by Congress. All America is now called upon to stand as one man, united, strong, determined, behind our government."⁴⁹

Most editors took a realistic attitude on aid to Russia. "Debate over whether the Russians or the nazis are greater

⁴⁸ Printed in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, December 7, 1941.

⁴⁹ *The Witness* (Dubuque, Established 1921, Catholic, Circulation 18,411), December 11, 1941. "Now it is war that must be waged and won", the same editor declared on the editorial page. "Strikes and Communism and politics have hampered and even hamstrung defense. Strikes and Communism and politics are now out; patriotism and victory and Country are the paramount considerations now."

foes of the church'', an Osage editor declared, "interests far fewer Americans just now than speculation as to how long the former can keep the latter occupied. Success or failure of Russia probably means whether or not an American army will have to fight abroad."⁵⁰ The *Mason City Globe-Gazette* reflected a thoroughly realistic opinion: "There are good reasons for helping Russia today, but they don't spring from any deep love for the communistic way of life."⁵¹

A rapidly accelerating bond of sympathy toward and concern for the Russians was noted after December 7th. "We now need the coöperation of Russia in the Pacific as desperately as the Soviet Union needs our tanks'', declared the *Davenport Times* on December 8th.⁵² On this same day the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* reminded readers of Hitler's German Winter Relief Campaign speech of October 3rd in which he asserted that Russia had been "eliminated" as a serious military factor. "Two full months of furious fighting have passed since then. The Germans are no closer to Moscow than they were then. In south Russia their advancing machine has gone into reverse. The Russians fight on, grimly, furiously. . . . Do the German people remember?"⁵³

⁵⁰ *Mitchell County Press and Osage News*, quoted in the *Ames Tribune* (Established 1867, Independent, Circulation 4608), December 9, 1941.

⁵¹ Quoted in the *Clayton County Register* (Elkader, Established 1878, Republican, Circulation 2574), December 10, 1941. The *Mason City Globe-Gazette* was established in 1857, is Independent Republican, and has a circulation of 19,467.

⁵² *Davenport Times*, December 8, 1941. On this same day the *Times* editorialized on Hitler's retreat from Rostov. "The city, said the Nazi spokesmen, was being evacuated by German troops in order to teach the population a lesson. Since when have German troops ever withdrawn to teach any population a lesson? The fact was, of course, the Russians simply made it impossible for Hitler's troops to hold Rostov and they were compelled to retreat."

⁵³ *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* (Established 1836, Independent, Circulation 31,293), December 8, 1941.

The *Atlantic News-Telegraph* was delighted with the continued Russian successes. "It is almost unbelievable, but the Russian victories are beginning to reach major proportions. Of course, it is too early to form any judgments, but it could be that Hitler's military effort has already reached its peak and that the retreat from Moscow is the beginning of the end for this modern Napoleon, as it was for his predecessor. Be that as it may, the current Russian victories are most important to the democracies, for they are practically a guarantee that the Germans will be kept too busy on the Russian front this winter to do much damage on other fields of battle."⁵⁴

With the dawn of a new year the Russians, to the consternation of the Germans and the amazement of armchair prophets, continued to advance. The *Oelwein Register* viewed with satisfaction the Germans "sprinting" homeward leaving much of their military machinery behind them.⁵⁵ Many editors did not hesitate to poke fun at Hitler and his intuitive campaign. "The German broadcasters", chuckled the *Wright County Monitor*, "told the German people that the retreat in Russia was 'strategic' and had been 'planned.' That's not what we call such things in this country. When a man or men get out of a place the way the Germans are getting out of Russia we always use the word 'Scram.' That's an abbreviation of 'scramble.' A scramble is a rout, a confused rush, an indiscriminate running hither and yon in a vigorous effort to get out of danger. That's what the Germans are doing."⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Quoted in the *Ames Tribune*, December 9, 1941.

⁵⁵ *Oelwein Register* (Established 1896, Republican, Circulation 3973), January 3, 1942.

⁵⁶ Quoted in the *Eldora Herald-Ledger* (Established 1865, Independent, Circulation 2900), January 15, 1942. The *Wright County (Clarion) Monitor* was established in 1869, is Republican, and has a circulation of 2600.

The *Sioux City Journal* took a similar jocular attitude: "Any time in the

While the *Des Moines Register* of February 26th derived "great satisfaction" from the Russian offensive it did not expect any "miracles" to happen. The entire gain after two and one-half months of hard counter offensive had advanced the "mean line" of action only 50 to 100 miles. Nevertheless the editor felt this offensive revealed Russia's almost limitless reserve power and her ability to "seize the initiative" at any opportunity. Stalin had also prevented Hitler from maintaining an idle winter line while German production and training caught up with his losses, thereby keeping the German expenditures "piling up" throughout the winter. Since Russia had to be bolstered against the inevitable spring offensive the *Register* urged the continued feeding of the maximum of supplies and equipment to Stalin's warriors. "No one can tell where this war is going to make the 'turn' very definitely against the Axis. At least it has as great a chance of making it in Russia as anywhere, at present."

On the same day this editorial appeared, Russian Ambassador Litvinoff addressed the Overseas Press Club dinner in New York City. Calling upon Russia's allies for more assistance, Litvinoff emphasized that his country did not demand "exclusive rights" in smashing Hitler's war machine. There was only one way in which Hitler could be beaten in 1942, Litvinoff insisted, and that was by "simultaneous offensive operations on two or more fronts separated by long distances." The Davenport *Times* felt this realistic Russian approach contained "deep significance" since it bulwarked the position of President Roosevelt.⁵⁷ While not unmindful of the hazards involved, the

future the Germans wish to borrow from a foreign language they might use Timoshenko for headache. That's the name of the Russian general who's been giving Adolph Hitler such a splitting one."—Quoted in the *Ames Tribune*, December 17, 1941.

⁵⁷ *Daily Times* (Davenport), February 27, 1942.

Sioux City Journal felt the Russian plan was worthy of consideration. "The Litvinoff suggestion is most interesting, particularly since the sensational performances of the Russian forces have shown nazi soldiers are not invincible and can be whipped. The strategy urged has possibilities of success and the certainty of great sacrifice. A movement by allied armies for invasion of the continent would involve losses, possibly enormous. The Germans have fortified much of the coastline all the way from Norway to Brest, France. That line would have to be broken somewhere. It could be broken, of course, if sufficient power were hurled against it. And if the Germans rushed soldiers from the eastern front to protect themselves elsewhere, thus weakening their forces engaged with the Russians, they would expose themselves to further smashing drives by the soviet divisions. It would be wonderful to get the despised Hitler between two such millstones."⁵⁸

The *Marshalltown Times-Republican* agreed with this strategy, asserting it would fit into the category of offensive warfare as urged by Wendell Willkie in Los Angeles. "Russia has a right to expect more help than such supplies as we can send by the long ocean routes", the editor asserted. "She has a right to expect that Britain, with the help of United States troops, gets serious about that invasion of the European continent. In fact Stalin has more than broadly suggested that when he said that Germans will be driven 'out of Russia,' not that Russia will march on to Berlin. On to Berlin is our job. . . . The time for a knock-out is when the enemy is groggy."⁵⁹

Prior to December 7th the United States had been committed to an all-out lend-lease policy to Great Britain. Iowa

⁵⁸ *Sioux City Journal*, February 28, 1942.

⁵⁹ *Marshalltown Times-Republican* (Established 1870, Independent Republican, Circulation 10,948), February 28, 1942.

editors generally approved of this action. Every British victory was greeted with general rejoicing while a defeat was met with almost universal gloom. This feeling became all the more intense after Pearl Harbor for thereafter it was recognized that the fate of the two nations was inextricably woven together.

Despite this feeling of unity some papers did not hesitate to question British conduct in the war whenever it seemed that nation was not performing its duties.⁶⁰

Perhaps one of the most pointed statements was made by Harlan S. Miller in a letter addressed to President Roosevelt through his "Over the Coffee" column. Few newspaper men have been more ardent advocates of all out aid to Britain, hence his reactions are all the more significant. Professing to interpret the pulse of Iowa public opinion, Mr. Miller wrote: "We're a little worried about the British, too. We're fond of 'em as allies, & all that. We're willing to give up eggs & sugar & butter for 'em, & lend 'em & lease 'em lots of stuff they'll never pay for. But we wonder whether they're saving some of the hot spots for American boys?"

"We admire their valor, which they've demonstrated. But we'd like to see more of it. Will American boys get the job of retaking Bengasi & Libya next time? Will American boys have to save the Suez canal? Will American boys have to recapture Singapore, the impregnable? We hope it won't be any more impregnable in Jap hands than it seems to be in British hands."⁶¹

⁶⁰ Many editors insisted that constructive criticism was healthful as well as needed, pointing to the fact that the British themselves often lashed out strongly at Churchill. "Speaking of national unity", a Jasper County editor declared, "the British don't hesitate about having their say when something goes wrong with the war effort. . . . national unity isn't promoted entirely by blind acquiescence to everything that the government does."—*Newton News* (Established 1902, Republican, Circulation 4301), February 14, 1942.

⁶¹ *Des Moines Register*, February 3, 1942.

These criticisms, it should be pointed out, were made in a newspaper friendly to Great Britain. There were other newspapers, however, which stoutly took up the cudgels in favor of England.

The *Sioux City Journal* of February 22nd was much concerned over the anti-British feeling manifested in some places. "Hate of the English and everything pertaining to the British empire is encountered among native born Americans who really suffer—there's no other word for it—from their intense anglophobia. It is more widely distributed than the average person would suspect. It is encountered in surprising places among groups of various derivations. Some English haters are, themselves, descendants of settlers who came to the new world from the British isles."

After pointing out that some native-born Americans still thought in terms of "tyrannical and despotic" George III while some native Americans of foreign stock clung to the "tradition" of hating England through the ages, the editor concluded: "If it had not been for Great Britain and her matchless navy the prepared aggressors could have hurled themselves upon unprepared America, and, beyond a doubt, they would have done just that long ago. But the British stood fast and absolutely alone against the greatest war machine that ever existed, that of nazi Germany. Their navy and their air force insulated the United States. Their courage safeguarded us. We survived because of the British who for more than two years held a dangerous and barbarous enemy at bay. Let those who hate Great Britain ponder the question of where we should have been if it had not been for her."

The *Boone News-Republican* believed that the evidence that England shipped 9000 planes and 3000 tanks abroad at the risk of weakening her own home front was extremely heartening. "Britain may have been short-sighted in many

ways in this war. Singapore was lost and Burma is going because the British underestimated Japanese strength. But the United States has been guilty of under-estimating the Japs, too. England can be criticized, no doubt, for many things, but it should never be forgotten that England stood alone against Hitler for many months, enduring without thought of giving up the worst sort of aerial bombing.”⁶²

The *Rolfe Arrow* of February 12th believed that Great Britain was doing her share of the fighting and attributed much of the propaganda that England was ready to fight to the last Frenchman, Australian, or Canadian, to Nazi propaganda or unthinking isolationists. “The English have done their usual amount of bungling in the conduct of the war, but they cannot be justly charged with avoiding their share of the risk. To date English bungling has produced nothing to equal the criminal negligence of the U. S. commanders in Hawaii. Part of their failures have been due to lack of equipment and means of transportation. The English war cabinet undoubtedly contains some deadwood which will have to be removed. Some critics of the government have been unreasonable and unwilling to accept the facts of the war situation; but England has produced no leader since Chamberlain who can match in dumbness our Lindbergh, Wheeler and Nye.”

The fall of “impregnable” Singapore on February 15th was a particularly gloomy day for the United Nations. This tragic reverse, coupled with the escape of the Nazi warships from Brest, was almost too bitter a pill for some editors to swallow. While admitting that the latter incident “greatly complicates defense of the Atlantic” the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* hastily urged its readers not to blame “British incompetence for it all”. “The Nazi coup was a

⁶² *Boone News-Republican* (Established 1865, Republican, Circulation 4006), February 28, 1942.

bold and clever stroke, carefully planned and carried out with daring under precisely the right conditions. The British reputation for bungling, which has had several unfortunate additions recently, has been blamed widely in this case. There may have been bungling. But on the other hand, in such instances we often tend to expect the impossible and thus to criticize blindly.

“Britain’s fleet, just as our own, is dispersed over vast portions of the globe, trying to do many jobs. It could not be concentrated rapidly. Both RAF bombers and what naval craft were available were hampered in the extreme by a thick Channel fog over which they had no control.

“Incompetence can’t be defended—and probably there was some incompetence in success of the Nazi trick. But it is unfair to charge all our disappointment to that. Some of it in this case can be chalked up to just plain bad luck.”⁶³

In addition to Russia and England, Iowa editors commented freely on our other allies — China and the Dutch East Indies in the far Pacific and the Latin American republics in the Western Hemisphere. The *Madrid Register-News* praised the Chinese for their steadfast resistance to Japanese aggression. According to this editor the Chinese presented only one liability to the allies — their arms and ammunition had to be furnished them. “But they do have unlimited man power”, he asserted, “and under the circumstances this man power seems to be turning into first

⁶³ *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, February 17, 1942. Another editor wrote: “Much bitter comment has been heard about the part the British have played in this war and that we were again going to have to pull their chestnuts out of the fire. This is not so and while we do not know why the forces at Singapore have not had more re-enforcements we do know that the men who are directing the armies and navies of the allies are well aware of the situation and the danger involved for that is their business.

“All we stay at homers can do is buy defense stamps and defense bonds and have faith in the men directing the armies and navies and a greater faith in our way of life and we will eventually triumph.”—*Parkersburg Eclipse* (Established 1872, Independent, Circulation 998), February 12, 1942.

class fighting men. One thing is certainly true, they are a greater help to the United States and England than Italy is to Germany. If supplies can be continued to China this unlimited man power can be used in stretching the Japanese lines to the breaking point. And in the end a new China may emerge powerful and right minded enough to change the far east from a menace to friendly and peaceful relationship with other right-minded and peaceful peoples.”⁶⁴

The *Des Moines Register* of February 10th viewed with satisfaction congressional approval of a new loan of five hundred million dollars to China but regretted that it would probably be of more value in strengthening China’s morale than in actually delivering goods to the army of Chiang Kai-Shek. “We simply cannot afford any lessening of resistance to the totalitarian aggressors at any of the points where it is possible to resist. And the heroic record of the Chinese for more than four years suggests that they will not be discouraged by new reverses—even though their resources dwindle more than ever before—so long as they are convinced that the other ABCD powers are doing the best they can and that a new day is on the way. . . . If moral support is all that we are able to give them for a time, then we had better make it the very strongest kind of moral support imaginable. For without that massive human backlog of resistance against the Japanese, our situation in the months just ahead would be even worse. . . . And by now it must be clear to all that it is going to be, for a while yet, plenty bad enough.”

From the very beginning of World War II the editors of the Hawkeye State watched with concern the reactions of

⁶⁴ *Madrid Register-News* (Established 1885, Republican, Circulation 2231), February 5, 1942. The *Atlantic News-Telegraph* of February 28th praised the Chinese for their gallant and steadfast resistance against the Japs and asserted that the allies could learn a “lesson” from them.

Latin America. The *Oelwein Register* of December 10th found it gratifying that "practically all of the South and Central American countries have joined us in a war declaration against Japan." The *Humboldt Independent* felt relieved that a "desire to whip Japan" afforded "one thing Mexico and Uncle Sam can agree on". When the twenty-one American Republics broke all commercial and diplomatic relations with Germany, Italy, and Japan, the *Albia Republican* hailed this "break with Axis as a break for us".⁶⁵

The *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald* of February 1st felt that in "all the blizzard of bucks" that was being "blown into the war effort" it would be hard to find twenty million more profitably used than those that were advanced to five Central American countries to finish the highway to Panama. These countries, already closely tied to American economy, will be all the more so when overland communication is possible. "The ability to truck supplies and equipment to the Panama Canal might save that artery in some emergency when sea communication should be interrupted", the editor asserted. "It's hard to see how we can lose on this one."

The arrival of the second expeditionary force in Ireland was hailed with delight by most editors. The *Des Moines Register* on January 28th said it was "obviously smart" to land American soldiers in Northern Ireland. Since Eire still mistrusted England it was well that the "traditional friend" of Eire that had served as a refuge for millions of emigrants from the Emerald Isle should send its own contingent.

"It was not any unhappy accident, incidentally, that the first American soldier to walk down the gangplank on Irish

⁶⁵ *Albia Union-Republican* (Established 1860, Republican, Circulation 2412), February 5, 1942.

soil was the son of an American citizen born in Germany, who went with his father's blessing and the command to 'Give 'em hell'."

"The Nazis have had such good luck in rallying to their cause large numbers of the people of German stock in such places as Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Balkans, and Latin America, that they imagined Americans of German stock would be grist for the same mill. So rousing good anti-Nazis of German stock like Wendell Willkie, Gen. Walter Krueger and Private Milburn Henke are worth a good deal on the propaganda front."

The *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* noted that Winston Churchill had spoken prophetically against the surrender of the English bases to Ireland in 1938 because they were desperately needed in combating submarine warfare and protecting convoys. But Mr. Chamberlain and his associates declared Churchill was an alarmist and was talking of things not likely to happen. "But they did happen", the *Nonpareil* pointed out. "Britain has suffered grievously from the lack of Irish bases. Thousands of sailors have lost their lives and millions of tons of precious cargoes are at the bottom of the Atlantic. England, and Ireland too, may yet be invaded as a result of De Valera's refusal to permit the use of Irish bases.

"American troops are in Ulster and many American lives may be lost because De Valera, backed up by some Americans of Irish descent, is really helping Hitler though claiming to be neutral." ⁶⁶

Through the maze of editorial opinion one idea particularly stands out—solidarity—the need for the United Nations to advance steadfastly and courageously against the enemy shoulder to shoulder. The editor of the *Pella*

⁶⁶ *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* (Established 1857, Independent, Circulation 15,215), February 26, 1942.

Chronicle was "concerned" over the "discordant voices" arising among the allies. "Two lessons for both Americans and the Allies are plain", he declared. "First, hot-headed and indiscreet people should hold their tongues. Second, the great American pastime of boasting is out. . . . Better do it like MacArthur does, fight all the time and say nothing."⁶⁷ "This is no time", the *Davenport Democrat* asserted, "for Americans and British to call each other harsh names. In the past both have made mistakes and it is only human that we shall make other mistakes in the future. But a lack of faith and confidence in our Allies and vice versa, is bound to be harmful. This is the age that challenges us with crushing force, that demands the assertion of our highest attributes. Now is the time for all of us to make a determined effort to pull together and help build a safe foundation for civilization."⁶⁸

The *Grinnell Herald-Register* was sorry that Pierre Van Paassen made "certain references" to the English people and politics in both his Grinnell and Des Moines speeches. "We are inextricably involved with the English in the outcome of this war. We stand or fall with them. Anything which is said or written which will tend to promote disunity or ill feeling between the two great nations we feel would

⁶⁷ *Pella Chronicle* (Established 1864, Independent, Circulation 2700), February 19, 1942.

⁶⁸ *Davenport Democrat and Leader* (Established 1855, Democrat, Circulation, Daily 14,799, Sunday 19,157), March 1, 1942. It was not merely the Iowa (or American) press that was guilty of this critical bickering. A considerable furor was started when Premier Hepburn charged that the United States Navy was "hiding" from the Japanese. The *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, commenting on the "Field Day for the Critics" arising out of Hepburn's accusation, the fall of Singapore, and the escape of the German battle-ships from Brest, declared of Premier Hepburn: "He has a loose tongue, and apparently little information. Our naval attack on the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, with brilliant results, refutes his statements, and suggests that Hepburn must be a little patient, whether or not he likes that. The Canadian government repudiates his statement, of course."

better be left unsaid''.⁶⁹ With this sentiment the *Brooklyn Chronicle* was in complete accord. "Those who dislike Britain—justly or unjustly it makes no difference—should realize that now the welfare of their armies and navies as well as those of Russia—for whom the same conditions hold—are also our welfare. Their defeats or disasters are now ours. Our country FIRST, of course, but our allies certainly are second now—whether we like them or not. Our final hopes of winning are linked with the allies—and WIN WE SHALL!"⁷⁰

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY IOWA

⁶⁹ *Grinnell Herald-Register* (Established 1868, Independent Republican, Circulation 2941), February 19, 1942. An O'Brien County editor felt certain we could not depend on our allies alone to win the war. "We are the hub of the anti-axis wheel and as we go, so goes the wheel. For a long time we sat back and watched Britain hold Hitler at bay almost single handed after the fall of France and the low countries. And the bloody British did a very good job of it".—*Sheldon Sun* (Established 1889, Independent Republican, Circulation 2745), February 18, 1942.

⁷⁰ *Brooklyn Chronicle* (Established 1875, Republican, Circulation 1225), February 26, 1942.

PETER WILSON IN THE CIVIL WAR¹

THE TRAINING PERIOD

In a letter dated March 19, 1861, Robert Young, one of the Scotch settlers who had come to Tama County in 1851, wrote to his parents in Scotland of conditions in the new homeland. The clouds of disunion and war were already apparent, but the young Scot reassured his family already making preparations for emigration to Iowa. "You need not be afraid of the secession movement", he wrote, "you seem to take the affair far worse on your side of the Atlantic. The western people treat the matter pretty coolly. The thing will blow over in a little while. The people here hate slavery as badly as they do in Britain. It is evident that they can't get along in the same union, the fire eaters of the South and the people of the North."²

But Robert Young was wrong in his prediction that the war cloud would soon blow over. Only a few weeks after his letter, the guns roared at Fort Sumter and then came the call for volunteers. The Scotch in the settlement along Wolf Creek felt the thrill of allegiance to the new land. The young men began to enlist. Two brothers, James and

¹ The State Historical Society of Iowa is indebted to Mr. Sheridan S. Wilson of Traer, Iowa, for permission to publish these Civil War letters written by his father, Peter Wilson.— Letters to Ruth A. Gallaher, dated March 12 and 14, 1942.

The letters included in this installment cover the period of training at Camp McClellan and Benton Barracks. Letters written later will, it is planned, be published in later issues of this volume. Only minor changes in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization have been made in the letters.

² This information from the letter written by Robert Young was taken from a manuscript containing sketches of the lives of various residents of the Scotch settlement in Tama County compiled by Janette Stevenson Murray (Mrs. Frederick G. Murray) of Cedar Rapids. Her father, William Stevenson, was one of the Scotch settlers in Tama County.

Peter Wilson, already farming for themselves, entered into an agreement that Peter, then twenty-four, would volunteer. James, a year older, was to take over Peter's farming interests and both were to share alike at the end of the war. This co-partnership to exist during the war was a not uncommon arrangement between brothers at that time.

Accordingly, Peter enlisted on October 9, 1861, at a meeting in the Buckingham schoolhouse. Nearly every man in the settlement was there. North Tama with scarcely one hundred and fifty men of military age sent eighty recruits. After a dinner in Toledo served by the church ladies, the men started by wagon for Marengo where they entrained for Davenport. Here the Fourteenth Iowa regiment was mobilized, with only seven companies.³

The roster of Iowa soldiers gives the following skeleton record of Peter Wilson, the soldier: "Age 24. Residence Wolf Creek, nativity Scotland. Enlisted Oct. 9, 1861. Mustered Nov. 2, 1861. Missing in action April 6, 1862, Shiloh, Tenn. Promoted Fourth Sergeant April 12, 1863; Third Sergeant, July 1, 1863. Missing in action April 9, 1864, Pleasant Hill, La. Returned from missing July 1, 1864. Mustered out June 12, 1865, Davenport, Iowa."⁴

From the camps Peter Wilson wrote letters to the members of his family. Those preserved in this collection were chiefly to his father, John Wilson, his brother James, and his sister Flora. These letters reveal the hardships of the soldiers in the Union army, the life in the camps, the psychological reaction to danger and battle, and the terrible

³ From data included in Mrs. Murray's manuscript on the Scotch settlers in Tama County. For another account of the enlistment and mustering of this company see Benjamin F. Thomas's *Off to the War* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XXII, pp. 161-177. Thomas and Peter Wilson enlisted at the same time in a company raised by William H. Stivers.

⁴ *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 851.

conditions in the military hospitals. Interspersed with these grim descriptions are allusions to affairs at home.

At the battle of Shiloh early in April, 1862, the Fourteenth Iowa lost heavily in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Among those taken prisoner on the sixth of April was Peter Wilson. He spent some time as a prisoner in a Memphis hospital suffering from fever, and later, with others of the Fourteenth Iowa, took an oath not to fight again until regularly exchanged and was permitted to return to the Union lines. Bound not to take part in the war as a combatant and not being permitted to return home, Peter Wilson spent some time working in an army hospital at Monterey near Corinth. Later in the summer the young soldier went home on a furlough and then returned to Benton Barracks to await a formal exchange. When the exchange was finally completed he returned to active duty.

Peter Wilson fought throughout the war and lived to raise a family in the Scotch settlement in Tama County. Of his seven children four are still living in Traer—Miss Mary W. Wilson, Mr. Sheridan S. Wilson, Mrs. Nellie Wilson Currens, and Mr. Peter L. Wilson. There are also six grandchildren.⁵

Camp McClellan

Oct 25th, 1861

Dear father: I take this opportunity to write a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We had a busy time that afternoon when we started, we stopped at Irving and the next day we arrived at Camp. We were welcomed with the rousing cheers of some 3000 men. We were marched into our quarters and I was rather struck with the appearance of them. Our shanties are made as tight as a good barn, bunked up like a ship two in a bunk. We have

⁵ Information in a letter from Mr. Sheridan S. Wilson to Ruth A. Gallaher, March 14, 1942.

plenty of straw and we are very comfortable. Our fare consists of beef, bread, beans, potatoes, rice & coffee, we get plenty to eat and good enough. We are all satisfied with our camp arrangements. In order to get into the 13th Regiment⁶ we had to double with another company. Their Captain is a first rate drill master and we had to take him for First Lieutenant which throws our officers down one step—I don't know what my position will be. If we had had men enough of our own I should have had what Stivers promised me but it is a very troublesome post & the hardest work in the company.⁷ We drill 3 hours per day and it is different from our old drill in the guards. I could hardly believe how much we learn. We have the best drill master in the camp and we make as good an appearance in two days practice as some of the companies that have drilled two weeks. Our camp is situated up the river just above east Davenport. It is a very pleasant place, we have a splendid view of the river, the bridge, and Rock Island. We are up in the morn-

⁶ There was much confusion in the organization of volunteer regiments and companies and the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry seems to have been very unfortunate in getting started. Too many companies were organized with too few men. The Tama County contingent hoped to get into the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, but was finally crowded out. Indeed it was only by high pressure recruiting and consolidation that Captain William H. Stivers succeeded in getting his group mustered into the Fourteenth Iowa as Company G.—See also Thomas's *Off to War in The Palimpsest*, Vol. XXII, pp. 168, 169.

⁷ The First Lieutenant of Company G was George Pemberton, thirty-five years of age, a resident of Scott County. His selection for this position was part of the plan for the consolidation of various groups. The officers of the Tama County company, designated at first as the "Tama County Rangers", were to have been: William H. Stivers, Captain; William Gallagher, First Lieutenant; Simon F. Eccles, Second Lieutenant. In the consolidated company Gallagher dropped to Second Lieutenant and Eccles became First Sergeant. What position Peter Wilson was to have had is not stated. His description of it as "a very troublesome post & the hardest work in the company" suggests that he might have been promised the position of First Sergeant. Lieutenant Pemberton had been a soldier in the Mexican War and in experience had the advantage of Captain Stivers, whom he succeeded on January 25, 1862.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 833; B. F. Thomas's *Soldier Life A Narrative of the Civil War* (Manuscript).

ing at daylight and march down to the river to wash. The sentinels are posted around the camp at short intervals muskets in hand and no soldier can get out without a pass or with a commissioned officer. If any one gets on the spree or misbehaves in any way he is put into the guard house; one got in tonight for stealing a pipe and another for stealing a pie. There is a great variety of character among 3000 men. At present some are writing, some are fiddling, dancing, fifing, drumming, playing cards, singing hymns, songs &c, some are reading the Bible, some the newspapers, some studying tactics, every one to his fancy, everything goes on very agreeable. I have not seen a quarrel since we came into camp. The Vinton boys are our next neighbors, amongst them I find several old friends. There are a great many splendid looking men in camp, the majority are stout good soldiers. There are ten or 12 teams hauling wood, water, beef, bread, potatoes, and all such things. I think if some of the Wolf Creek boys knew [how] well off we are they would not hesitate to come and join us right away. As near as we can find out our destination is Leavenworth.⁸ If so we will start in 3 or 4 weeks. The prospect of going there is satisfactory to the whole regiment, we will have good winter quarters and time to drill before we are brought into service. I wrote to Uncle David⁹ to come and see me. I shall probably see him before we go from this place. I can't get out untill we get our regiment full which will be a week or more. I shall write weekly to some of you. Give my love

⁸ Companies A, B, and C of the Fourteenth Iowa were sent to Fort Randall, Dakota Territory. For an account of their service see *Iowa Troops in the Sully Campaigns* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XX, pp. 364-443.

⁹ This was apparently David McCosh, a brother of Mrs. John Wilson. Benjamin F. Thomas says that he, Peter Wilson, and John Gaston visited at the McCosh home in Long Grove early in November, 1861. Long Grove is a community center some twelve miles north of Davenport.

to all. Write to Camp McClellan, Davenport, care of Captain Stivers.¹⁰

Camp McClellan

Nov 23rd 1861

Dear father: We are still in this place although expecting to leave soon. This is the first snowy blustering day we have had since we came to camp. We got our overcoats yesterday so we can brave the coldest weather. I have got the best suit of clothes that I had in my life, we have an overcoat, fatigue coat, and uniform coat, and plenty of other clothes. We packed such things as we did not need and sent them home this morning. We Wolf Creek boys put our things in a barrel and sent them to James¹¹ care of Graham of Toledo. Among other things I sent four pairs of shoes, three pairs tied to my carpetbag and one pair with my name in them. They are a very easy shoe to walk in. I bought three pairs for two dollars, the fourth I received when I got my clothes. They will be useful with you, they were of no use to me. My expected trip to Toledo fell through and I am not sorry, it would have been rather an unpleasant trip. Since the 11th and 13th left, things are more quiet. There are not more than 1000 men in camp at present. The lines have to be guarded all the same, it makes the boys stand guard oftener. It don't make any difference to me as I don't have to stand. My work comes very near being nothing as my health is good, plenty of amusement. I need not grumble but times will not always be so. There are some of the soldiers that won't be content to stay at home in the evening, they run the guard and go down town on the spree.

¹⁰ William H. Stivers, Captain of Company G, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry. He is described as an attorney, thirty-one years of age, and a resident of Tama County. His enthusiasm for military activities seems to have declined steadily and he resigned his commission on January 24, 1862.

¹¹ James Wilson, later Secretary of Agriculture. Unless otherwise addressed letters to "Dear brother" were written to James.

When there is a good many out, we sometimes have to go after them and have some fun bringing them back. They are not very severely punished—generally being put in the guard house untill morning. Our Company has behaved well so far. The restraints put upon us are none too strict and for my part I have no disposition to break them. Since writing this the report is that we leave Monday or Tuesday for Cairo but there is no certainty about it. You will not hear from me again from this place. Write to the care of Cap. Stivers, Company G 14th Reg Iowa Volunteers. Our letters will be sent after us, so you may write any time.

Camp McClellan, Nov 24th, 1861

Dear sister Flora: I have written several letters home this week, and therefore I have nothing new to write. I went to town the other day and had my likeness taken. The uniform don't look so well in a picture as it does on the individual but I will send it just as it is. It will give you some idea how a soldier looks. I will send one to mother, one to Longgrove¹² as my aunt requested, and the third you will hear from. We do not expect to be in this place much longer. We have orders to be ready to go at three hours warning, the probability is that we will leave this week. I have sent such things home as I did not need. I would send some more of my clothes if there was any way to send them. I have so many clothes and blankets that I scarcely know what to do with them. I would like to hear from James. When we go down the river I probably won't have time to write so often but I will write as often as I can. Write to the care of Cap. Stivers, Company G, 14th Reg Iowa Volunteers. If we go down the river that would find us when we get to our destination. I will give you my address the first

¹² Apparently Peter Wilson had recently returned from his visit to the McCosh home although he does not mention it in the letters preserved.

letter I write. Give my best wishes to all, Horace in particular, Bob Young not excepted. Your affect brother,

Camp McClellan, Nov 27th 1861

Dear brother¹³: We leave today at ten so I will have time to scratch but a few lines. We got our letters from home Tuesday night so letters that are now on the way won't find us in this place. I have not heard from you since I left home. Our letters will be sent after us if properly directed. We have packed our things in our knapsacks and some more things that we don't need we have packed in another barrel and sent to you the same as the first. There is nothing of mine in it but your old overcoat which I either had to send home or throw away. I think from what I can learn we are yet going to Leavenworth but there is nothing certain. For my part I don't care which way we go. We are all glad to leave this place although we have been very comfortable and well used. We were drilled yesterday afternoon by the Adjutant.¹⁴ He was greatly pleased with us and unhesitatingly pronounced us the best drilled Company in the Regiment, so much for our First Lieut's pains in drilling us. Capt. Stivers is good enough as a man but as a military man he is not as good as he ought to be. Galager¹⁵ is a first rate fellow and one of my particular friends.

I think our Regimental Officers are all we could wish both as men and officers so that we have the satisfaction of being used as we ought to be. Our Colonel¹⁶ is said to be worth

¹³ Apparently addressed to his brother and partner, James Wilson.

¹⁴ The Adjutant of the Fourteenth Iowa was Noah N. Tyner, apparently one of the officers contributed by the Scott County contingent.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 731.

¹⁵ William Gallagher, Second Lieutenant of Company G, was described as twenty-seven years of age and a resident of Toledo, Tama County. He became First Lieutenant on January 25, 1862, and Captain on January 7, 1863.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 807.

¹⁶ The Colonel of the Fourteenth Iowa at this time was William T. Shaw,

600,000 dollars. You would think he was a farmer just come in to sell a load of wheat, he is so plain. He has been through the Mexican War and got his kneecap shot off which makes him walk a little lame. But I must conclude. You will hear from me as soon as we get to our destination.

Benton Barracks

Dec 1st 1861

Dear sister: We left Camp McClellan on the 26 [November] and part of our Regiment came down the river on a boat, the balance among whom was our Company took the cars and went round within a little ways of Chicago. We had a pleasant trip, passing through a great many towns and villages amongst which was the home of old Abe which is a very pretty town with many splendid buildings. We arrived at Alton about midnight where we went on board a boat where there was already a Regiment of Illinois troops with part of a Reg. of Cavalry. They being first on board had filled the cabins so we had to take a deck passage. The night was cold and the change from the warm cars to the open air was not very pleasant, but thanks to my own number one propensities I slipped into a stateroom which privilege might be had for fifty cents. However I had not the money to spare. I slept as sound as if I had paid for it. We started at daylight and as it was only 25 miles we were in Saint Louis about nine o'clock. There is a large fleet of steamboats lying at the wharf with gunboats getting ready for the move down the river. We [dis]embarked about noon and took our line of march through the town. We passed through the principal, that is the most business, part of the town. Saint Louis is a very large town but where the buildings are 4 or 5 stories high the streets are only

forty years of age. He was born in Maine and was a resident of Anamosa. He commanded the Fourteenth Iowa throughout the war.

about 30 feet wide which makes it terribly crowded most of the time. It was easy to see by the reception the immense crowds gave us that we had got into the land of Secesh. The cheers that we were accustomed to everywhere we go were not forthcoming. If it were not for the presence of so many union soldiers Saint Louis would be against the union. As it is they have to keep quiet. The camp is some five miles from the landing, it is just outside the town so you have some idea what size Saint Louis is. We arrived about two in the afternoon. We were welcomed heartily by the other Iowa Regiments nine of whom are stationed at this place. There are some twenty thousand men here at present including three or four Regts. of Cavalry. They are nearly all armed, those that are not, will be immediately. Everything indicates speedy preparations for the winter campaign. Our camp is two miles square. It is on high level ground originally fitted up for fair grounds, the barracks are ranged from east to west and also about one mile across the east end leaving the center for drill and parade ground. We had a review today and the sight of so many fine Regiments was very inspiring. The Iowa 7th is here in camp. They have suffered severely in their recent fight,¹⁷ there are only some 250 left. Such is the fortune of war. We don't know when we may leave this place. It will take us some time to drill sufficiently to be fit to take the field. As part of our Regt. is at Leavenworth we may be sent there. However we are well off where we are. I feel thankful that so far our lines have fallen in pleasant places and I am not fearful for the future. I will write to father and James soon. This leaves the Wolf Creek boys all well and in good spirit. Skuse bad ritin & spelin.

Your affec brother,

¹⁷ The Seventh Iowa Infantry had just returned from the battle of Belmont. It was at this time commanded by Colonel J. G. Lauman. He reported that the regiment had only a little more than four hundred men and thus it lost almost one-half.

Camp Benton, Dec 2nd 1861

Dear brother: Everything is so new and exciting that I scarcely know what to write about. We have just come in from a three hours drill in the snow. There was just enough snow to make us slip and slide and tumble. There were so many companies drilling all around us that we could scarcely mind our own business. There is an incredible amount of maneuvers going on in drill hours. The drill ground is some two miles square and in Company drill there seems to be scarcely room for the exercises. There is Flying Artillery which as near as I can describe looks something like Klingiman's¹⁸ big wagon with six splendid horses hitched to it, the nigh horses mounted, the gunners sitting on the box on the front axle where the ammunition is kept. The cannon is mounted on the hind axle. They gallop from one place to another, firing blank cartridges at the Cavalry to get the horses used to the noise. There are some splendid Cavalry Regiments in camp, their horses are generally light, fiery, prancing nags. They are well fed and ridden very hard. They mostly stand in the open air but they have good blankets. There seems to be plenty of food and clothing for man and beast. I was perfectly surprised to find such good accommodations. Where there are so many men everything goes on like clock work. They are getting all the Iowa Regiments into this place with the intention of forming a Brigade. So far the Iowa boys have proved themselves second to none and we rejoice at the prospect of being brought together. I think we will go down the river together sometime this winter. Benton Barracks was laid out by Fremont¹⁹ and does credit to the man. They are comfortable and convenient. The place is

¹⁸ This reference was to Stephen Klingaman, who ran the mill in the Scotch community and was one of the important men in the county.

¹⁹ John C. Fremont was for a time in command in Missouri. He had married Jessie Benton, a daughter of Thomas H. Benton.

well adapted for a camp of instruction. A good many of the Regs. have got so far along with their drill as to use the bugle in giving commands. That is what they use on the battle field. It is a splendid sight to see a well-drilled regiment drilling with their commander so far away that his voice could not be heard. I saw a company of Sharpshooters going through their exercises this morning. They were a good-looking lot of men and seemed to understand their drill which is entirely different from ours. I would not say anything against Cap. Stivers in the Company as that is against the rules but if ever we come to the field of battle we will send him to stay with the women where he spends most of his time now. He has not drilled us once since we enlisted, in fact he don't seem to care how we get along. Our Lieutenants are very different, they take pride in having us the best drilled Company in the Regt. which we are said to be. When we go out on Battalion drill, Stivers has to take his place as Captain where he is so awkward that he makes himself a laughing stock for his own company. He has either got to do better or the First Lieutenant will be elected over him. We Wolf Creek boys saved him from such a fate once but we won't do it again. He has broken too many promises to keep friends a great while. There are three women with us ostensibly to sew and wash but they are rather loose characters. They may be useful if many of our men get sick. For my part I wash and sew for myself. I have been writing you and others a series of rambling letters scarcely knowing what I have said and left unsaid. Flora has been my most punctual correspondent. I have not heard from you yet. If you have not written, on receiving this please do write soon, a letter from home is the most desirable thing we soldiers get. I am one writing against many and so far I have done my share. I suppose I have more time but not so good accommodations. At

present I am sitting in my bunk with our music book on my knee using it as a desk, the boys as usual carrying on several amusements amongst which is dancing and boxing. The latter is the best amusement we have in which we all participate. I can hoe my row at it with most of the boys and can put the gloves on with our teacher to as good advantage as any one with the same practice. It teaches one to guard himself which is likely to be useful before the war is over. There is no more running the guard as it was in Davenport, any soldier that goes to town does it at the risk of his life. There are so many Secesh in Saint Louis that they take advantage of every straggler they can find, so the boys have to keep inside the lines. My letter, such as it is, is long enough, give my best wishes to all our friends and at present I shall conclude,

Camp Benton, Dec 3d, 1861

Dear father and mother: As I have written several letters since our arrival I don't know that I have anything new at present. I have been rambling through the camp when at leisure and after seeing the complete arrangements of such an extensive military school I begin to believe that if every other camp is as well regulated and getting their Regiments as well drilled the country must be getting on a very war-like footing. The camp includes the fair grounds of which you have some idea from the picture four months ago. Then there were no Barracks in this place, now there are good accommodations for twenty thousand men. The Barracks are built in rows about a mile on each side with sundry others across the ends. Each Barrack contains two Companies. They are about 40 feet wide and seventy feet long, one large stove in the centre which keeps the place quite comfortable. The front door opens on the parade ground which is perfectly level and about a mile square, the back door opens on

the row of kitchen buildings. The dining room is roofed but not sided up, the cook houses are the next row. Each Company does their own cooking, some hire darkies to cook for them. We pay three of our own boys to cook for us, we pay them 12 dollars per month each. They have pretty hard work and we would rather have it so than take turns as some do. Behind the cook houses are the Cavalry horses. They mostly stand in the open air but they are well fed and have warm blankets. They are generally good horses and make a splendid appearance when drilling. The Cavalry boys have more work than we do, it takes them all their time to keep their things in order while we are generally with the exception of drill hours spoiling for something to do. We fill up the time pleasantly enough. I would like to know what kind of weather you have in Iowa at this time. It looks like May here. We had slight fall of snow but it did not stay long. We went out into the country the other day some five or six miles, we were uncomfortably warm with our coats off. We went to get some persimmons. They taste something like raisins and are about the size of figs. They grow on trees something like hackberry. The country around Saint Louis is very beautiful, the farms have good houses and good fences and orchards. The most of them have niggers and are Secesh in principle. The soil seems to be good by the looks of the corn stalks but it is very poorly watered as far as I have seen. The camp is watered from the Missouri river, it is brought some distance in pipes. It is pretty good.

Friday Dec 6th. Our Barracks have been overhauled and fixed to suit the Colonel's notions which has prevented me from finishing my letter. In the meantime I received a letter from Jane²⁰ and also one from James. I am glad to

²⁰ Jane was a favorite sister, mentioned frequently in Peter's letters.

hear that you are all getting along so well. They also inform me that Sloss's²¹ little girl is dead which was rather a sad affair. If we stay away three years there will doubtless be a good many such changes. I am also informed that Uncle Gilbert McMillan still trades a little and that John Glen still keeps his health &c &c. If we stay long in this place I will write to Uncle West,²² Andrew, and the McDowall boys. There are so many to write to that I have not got around them all yet. We soldiers have no idea when we have to march, in fact we don't know as much about war matters as those that are out of the camp. We have received everything but our guns. There are plenty of them here but our Col. don't like their pattern so we wait for something better. We drill in everything but the manual of arms, I think on looking at some of the old Regs. going through Battalion drill it will take us two or three months before we are fit for service. Most of the Regs. have brass bands some of which play splendid. The Cavalry bands go on horseback and between one band and another the drill ground looks like a continual holiday rather than preparations for war. There are some splendid looking field cannon in this place. I should suppose from the way they are managed on drill that they will be heard from some time if they ever get into the fight but I will conclude my disjointed sentences. You must consider the place I have to write in. You might as well try to keep your thoughts collected in bedlam, if there is such a place, as to attempt such a thing in this place.

Dec 7th 1861

Dear brother James: I received your letter yesterday and

²¹ This refers to a daughter of George Sloss who lived north of the John Wilson farm.

²² West Wilson, known as the "Squire", was a brother of John Wilson, the father of Peter.

shall answer it as quick as possible. I am glad to hear how well you are getting along. At the date of your letter you were not aware that we had started for Missouri. Probably before this reaches you we will be on the way to Leavenworth. The reason why I think we are going there is that three of our Companies²³ are out there now and our Col. says we must either have them back or go to them. The Col. is an old hand and knows his rights and looks like a man that will have them. You wish to know what kind of material the 14th Regt. is composed of. It is rather hard for me to say with my limited experience of military matters. I think our Colonel, Major, Adjutant, and Lieutenant Colonel²⁴ are all men that understand their business and as far as I have seen are men in the highest sense of the word. They come among the boys occasionally, use us like equals. When in the ranks they of course show their dignity. I have never seen an officer insult a private since I enlisted. Some of them probably would if they dared to do so but it is all day with them if they lose the good will of the men. As a proof of this our boys got to thinking Stivers was paying more attention to his women than he ought and neglecting to drill us as much as he ought. They got up a petition requesting him to resign or tend to his business; he took the latter course double quick time. If he is not very careful our First Lieutenant will be in his place before long. There are several other green Captains in the Regt., with some first-rate drill masters. There is not any of them can beat our First Lieutenant. Gallagher is also getting to be a

²³ Companies A, B, and C of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry were mustered into service at Iowa City and later were sent to Fort Randall in Dakota Territory. They did not join the regiment, but later were replaced by three other companies.

²⁴ Colonel William T. Shaw, Lieutenant Colonel Edward W. Lucas, Adjutant Noah N. Tyner, and Major Hiram Leonard. Lieutenant Colonel Lucas resigned on March 12, 1863, Major Leonard on February 26, 1862.

good drill master. He is also a very sociable companion. I have made a good many friends and I think no enemies since I came into the Company. I think when the 14th gets well drilled they will compare favorably with any of the Iowa Regts., which are composed of the stoutest men on an average that I see in this place. There are some fine Regts. from Illinois in this place and some Missouri Regts. that look very well. The First Iowa Cavalry are a splendid Regt. They seem to be well drilled and daily practice the sword exercise. They have fine horses and ride like Jehu. The government teams are rigged like Klingiman used to rig his. They mostly use mules. They drive from four to six with the single line. There is some fun breaking mules and horses but they do it up in business style and I believe there are some of the best teamsters here that I have seen. They teach a pair of mules how to pull and go with the single line in a few days. Speaking of climate the warm rain falls steadily today. We will have it very muddy when we go out to drill again. We have nothing to [do] when it rains except the guards. They of course have to stand in all kinds of weather. I have only been Corporal of the Guard once since I enlisted. When the boys are absent at roll call they are put on double duty so that those that are on hand all the time seldom come on guard duty. Among so many men there are generally some that won't conform to the regulations so they have to do the sweeping in the Barracks and such little chores. Everything is kept clean and neat and in good order in the Barracks. We have to keep our clothes clean and our brass fixins bright. We are inspected once per week. Some of the boys are continually losing their things. They are furnished with what they lose at their own expense. Some of our boys have spent their first wages and are running on tick with the Sutler. They have to pay very dear for what they get. I don't believe

the Sutler can collect his bills and I hope he can't. It would be a good thing for the boys if there was no such establishment. Things have passed on quietly the last few days. There has been no disturbance on the lines which is generally the place for some shooting. However the reports that we heard on our arrival were somewhat exaggerated. I don't think this country is as healthy as Iowa. I believe this is a great place for the ague and bilious diseases generally. I would rather have frosty weather than such warm, muddy, disagreeable weather as this is. The parade ground is empty today for the first time since we came here. The boys are all in the Barracks which present a lively scene of confusion. We have some very waggish characters in our Company. The[y] of course run the rig on their more simple brethren. We have over a months wages due but probably won't receive any money before the first of January. I have enough to do me for a month or two. When we get our next pay if there is much prospect of going into the field I will buy a revolver. Some of our boys can shoot with wonderful accuracy now. Gaston²⁵ got a very good seven shooter for fifteen dollars but I don't much think there will be any chance to use them. When you write let me know whether you received the barrels and how you like Uncle Sam's shoes. I have more clothes now than I need. If we go into the field I will have to throw some of them away but I must conclude. Write soon to Peter Wilson Co G 14th Reg.

Camp Benton Dec 8th 1861

Dear Sister Flora:

I have been writing a good many letters since we came to camp and receiving so few answers makes it rather discouraging. No one has seen fit to write without my writing

²⁵ John Gaston, one of Peter Wilson's friends both at home and in the army.

them first and then they seem slow to answer. But I did not intend to grumble, my luck may be better by and by. This being Sabbath it is not hardly right to be employed writing but although we have preaching, the Sabbath is not kept very strict. We do not drill but we have to fix up our knapsacks and go out to be inspected. While we are being inspected outside, our bunks are inspected to see that everything is in good order. Feeling slightly indisposed I was excused from going out today and after reading untill I got tired I changed the program to my present occupation. The Iowa 11th and the 52nd Illinois left for Jefferson City. The Iowa boys were much the stoutest men. I stood where I could see each platoon as they passed. The Iowa boys were evidently from the farm their unshaven faces considerable dirty and being well armed and having plenty of ammunition they looked as independent as could be. If they don't fight well I am much mistaken. Since writing so far I have been to preaching. The Chaplain treated more on the laws of health today than would suit in some congregations. His remarks however suited the occasion very well and will probably do as much good as a more orthodox sermon.

The weather is so pleasant that we go about in our shirt-sleeves. The ground dries very quick after rain. Two days ago it was very muddy but it is already comfortable getting about. It is certainly must pleasanter to live in a climate like this in the winter than in Iowa, however if we pass the summer in the South we may not like it so well. Frank²⁶ has got some new guttapercha pens and has me trying them, hence my mixed looking letter. We generally spend half of our evenings or more writing. I have written to Uncle David and to Six mile Grove and intend to write to

²⁶ The friend referred to as Frank was Benjamin Franklin Thomas, who described his visit to the McCosh home at Long Grove.—Thomas's *Off to the War* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XXII, p. 170.

all my old friends. If they don't see fit to answer me I will soon forget them.

I believe if the society was congenial to my tastes I would like the life of a soldier better than anything else, but there are too many men that I despise, that is their manner of life, for me to think of staying any longer than the war is over. We Wolf Creek boys are much attached to one another. I could not have better comrades. We spend our evenings together and at present are all writing to our friends. The more noisy amusements of other evenings are rejected for singing, writing, and in some of the quarters they hold prayer meetings which are generally well attended. I had a letter from Jane a few days ago, the second since I became a soldier. She gives me more encouragement than any of my correspondents which is something I shall always feel grateful for. She seems to get along well with her studies and always looks on the bright side of the picture. But I must conclude. You will get tired of reading so many jumbled harem scarem letters.

Your letters directed to Camp McClellan have found me here the postmaster knowing where to send but the proper direction is Co G, 14 Reg. That will find us wherever we go.

Benton Barracks

Dec 9th 1861

Dear brother West:²⁷

I had intended to write some of you boys some time ago but have postponed it untill the present. I sent home the picture of the camp ground but it gives but a poor idea of this place. There are so many men and horses here it would make you wonder where they all found accommoda-

²⁷ Peter Wilson mentions six brothers in these letters — James, West, John, Andrew, David, and Allen.

tion. There are some Regiments going out and some coming in every day. There are some splendid horses and some good riders also. I was looking at the Cavalry going through squadron drill this afternoon. In wheeling from column into line the outside horse has to gallop about as fast if they were trying to head off a steer that did not want to be yoked. They are four deep and come around in better line than the Infantry can on a double quick. The Cavalry are armed with carbines, sabres, and revolvers. The revolvers are carried in the saddle, the sabre is carried at the left side. The carbine is something about half way between a gun and a pistol in size. It is strapped on the right shoulder. Their blankets and knapsack are strapped behind the saddle. They have much the pleasantest way of travelling but they have more chores to do while in camp than we do. We have not received our arms yet, we could get muskets but the Col. would rather wait and get rifles.

Dec. 10th 1861

I have been out this forenoon for the first time with the officers on officer drill. They form the Regiment with strings in place of the men. The Col. takes command and every one can hear the orders so much better than the other way. The Caps. or Lieuts. that don't know their business are corrected as well as the rest. The noncommissioned officers have a chance to learn just as much as the commissioned officers. A good number know more now. But such news won't interest you much. If you will write, you can mention any thing you wish to know. Have John and Andrew also write. You can make up a pretty interesting letter among you. Let me know how you get along with your school and how your colts get along, your cattle, and so on. Give a general description of all your separate charges. I don't know that I have much more to write. I shall expect

a letter from you in a week or two. It is getting near drill time so no more from your brother,

Benton Barracks Dec 11th 1861

Dear Uncle: I suppose it is time that you should hear from me but I scarcely know what to say to you. After being out with the officers of the Regiment several times on officer drill I begin to see how deficient some of them are in regard to the most simple movements of Company drill as well as Battalion. There are a good many men in the wrong place which time will probably remedy. There is an old Dutchman that holds the position of Major²⁸ in the Iowa Twelfth that drills the officers of the 14th. He is the best drill master in Battalion movements that I have seen. It pleases me immensely when he corrects some of our officers and shows them their ignorance which mortifies them as much as it pleases the sergeants and corporals. We form Companies without the men, that is the pivot men have a string between them instead of the men. The officers then take their proper places and the old Major puts us through Battalion and Brigade drill without anything but the officers. I think it is a very good idea and is certainly much needed in our Reg. We understand Company drill pretty well and that is about as far as our officers can take us. This morning as usual we went out on officer drill at eight o'clock. Our old Dutchman not arriving some of them made a motion that we should fall in and have Company drill as there were so many commanders. There was some time spent in contending about who should take command, each one putting it onto the other. Finally our First Lieutenant agreed to take command for the time. He is an old Mexican soldier and is the best drill master in our Regiment. We found that what

²⁸ The Major of the Twelfth Iowa Infantry at this time was Samuel D. Brodtbeck, a native of Switzerland.

they had been teaching others they could not do themselves much to the amusement of the non-commissioned officers who of course had no difficulty. Some of them will learn and keep their places, others will be thrown aside in the course of time if the war goes on long enough. Some time ago we invited Stivers either to tend to his business or give up his place. He of course chose the former and since has been doing first-rate. If he don't keep his eye peeled he will lose his place sooner or later. For my part I like him very well but he has a good many enemies in the Company. The Thirteenth Regiment leaves early tomorrow morning. They don't know where they are going. I have just been up to their quarters and bid my old acquaintances in the Vinton Company good-bye. They were in good spirits and did not seem to care where they went. They are pretty well drilled, but their muskets are not first-rate. When we came here we were offered the same kind. Our Col. said they might go to hell with their old muskets that would kick a man over a fence and kick at him through the rails after he was over, so we have not got our arms yet.

Dec. 12th — The Thirteenth left today, also part of the Iowa 3rd Cavalry and a Company of Sharpshooters called the Missouri 13th. One of their numbers slipped through the guard last night and got into a brawl in a saloon close at hand. He was stabbed so that he has since died. On learning the above his comrades went out and as they could not find the assassins they burned the house [and] started squads in pursuit. They found them in a house close by and as it is the place where several soldiers have been killed they will doubtless be hanged or shot. Where there are so many men such things are not to be wondered at. I did not expect to see the soldiers so well disposed to one another. Any one that has on Uncle Sam's

clothing and gets down town on the spree they are all right if any of the same stripe finds them. If not they sometimes have trouble in getting back to camp. There are lots of sneaking Secesh in and around St. Louis who lose no chance of shooting the soldiers. For my part I feel as safe as if I was at home and with few exceptions those that lose their lives have themselves to blame.

Dec 14th — We have been so busy for the last few days that I have not had time to finish this letter. There are some of our men sick with the measles and I suppose there will be more of them soon. It is very disagreeable where there are so many men hardly sick enough to go to the hospital and not well enough to be on duty. We got out into the country yesterday after persimmons and hickory nuts. We found plenty of both. The country is very beautiful around St. Louis and the woods abound with the former commodities. The persimmons are as good to the taste as raisins and grow on trees something like hackberry. I will send you some of the seed in this letter. You can try if they will grow in Iowa. We are progressing steadily with our drill and I think by the way they put us through they intend to give us something to do by and by. It can't come any too soon as far as I am concerned. I believe it would be healthier in tents than in the Barracks but I am well enough where I am and don't care much which way the wind blows.

I don't know that I have any thing more to write at present. I have written a good many letters such as they were and received very few answers so far but I may have better luck by and by, so I will finish by requesting you to write me a few lines at your earliest convenience.

Benton Barracks, Dec. 16th 1861

Dear Brother: I received your letter dated Dec. 5 and one

from father also. It is needless to say how glad I am to hear from you all. We are getting along very well, but if I go more than a week without getting a letter from some of you I get very impatient. You inform me that the Buckingham ladies are raising money for the soldiers. I think they had better use it about home. D. Southwick²⁹ had a letter from Murdock the other day who proposes to send him some socks and so forth. Dewit who is one of our most jolly good natured boys thinks if he wants to send us any thing he had better send us some money or Sutler tickets, that being the only thing we have any use for. As far as clothing and blankets are concerned we have more than we know what to do with. When we go into the field and have to march a good deal we will throw away probably half of what we now have. When a Regiment goes out I could buy all kinds of clothing for almost nothing so that the good ladies of Tama County must be under some mistake in regard to our wants. We expect to get our pay in a week or two and then we won't have a want of any kind. I have some money yet but it is not much. Our real wants above what we are furnished are trifling, writing materials and tobacco are about all. There is a system of trade carried on between the Sutler and the soldiers on the plan of the milk pedlars of Greenville. They sell one dollars worth of tickets and charge them to the receiver who gives his name and Company. The Sutler has to get his pay the best way he can. If the boys don't see fit to pay him they have to pay two or three prices for everything they get. However they intend to regulate that when they pay him. For my part I pay as I go and shall do so as long as possible.

The next time you write let me know whether you have

²⁹ DeWitt or DeWit Southwick, aged twenty. He enlisted with the Tama County boys, was taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh and died at St. Louis soon after he was paroled.

received the barrels with our old clothes. The shoes were the most that was worth looking after.

I am sorry for Jany's misfortune but accidents will happen sometimes. Whatever you find best to do in regard to the management of our stock, trading &c do just as you see best. I think it is the safest way not to make any calculations on my help at present. The chances are slim for my being home in time for doing anything next summer but that remains to be seen. I am in good health and spirits so for the present good bye, from your affect brother

Benton Barracks

Dec 17th 1861

Dear Sister: I received your letter and shall scrape a few lines in reply. I forgot to state in writing to Jane that the song Frank composed while at Long Grove is lost but if you take the Toledo paper you will see something of his in it some of the time. The piece is about his leaving home and is very good. My friend from Long Grove is gone down the river again. He wanted to go home for a short time but he could not get away so he had to go with his Reg. I think they went to Cairo. The 13th Iowa is at Jefferson City. I expect to hear from one of the Vinton boys some of these days. I may have been a little too impatient on account of not hearing from home as often as I could wish but I shall be content in future if I hear from home as often as I have since I came to this place. See that you and Jane are on hand with your next as soon as possible. I expect to hear from Six-Mile Grove, Long Grove, and various other places soon, so I am in good spirits on that subject at present as I am on every other at all times. I felt somewhat anxious about the future when we first enlisted but now I don't care much whether school keeps or not as the saying is. The worst trouble is that we are getting so

lazy we will be spoiled for any use if we ever happen to have to work for our living but that don't disturb us much. But I must quit this nonsense. We are at present seated in our tent the candle in the middle and each one at his own business. I never lived in a house that I liked so well as our tent. If you ever saw an Indian's wigwam you have something like our palace. We lie around to suit our own fancy with no man or woman to say what doest thou. One of the boys belonging to Co. F died today. Some one or two of ours are very sick and will probably die. John Felter has the measles but was not very sick and is getting better. His folks won't know that he was sick untill he is well again. He is very anxious to be well before we go away so that he will be able to go with us and I think if we stay this week he will be all right next week. The Buckingham³⁰ boys are as much attached to one another as if they were brothers and are as kind and as accommodating as can be. There are some good sociable fellows and also some hard cases in our Co. but we get along very agreeable all round. But I must finish, so bidding you good by, I remain your affect brother,

Benton Barracks Dec 24th 1861

Dear Father and Mother: I received your letter since writing you the last time. I also had letters from James, Flora, and others. I am happy to hear that you are all well and are getting along as well as usual. The weather has been rather more like Iowa for the last few days. We had another slight fall of snow with something of a bluster when it ceased falling. The next morning was pleasant and during the day it thawed considerably. Today the snow is pretty much gone, another day will finish it. Things go on

³⁰ Buckingham was a townsite north of Wolf Creek not far from the present town of Traer. It was named for Governor William A. Buckingham, who had been Governor of Connecticut.—*Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XVI, pp. 136-142. It is still a community center.

as usual in camp only there are a good many Regts. going out. I think there are brisk times expected soon down the river. You have doubtless heard of the late affair in western Mo. The prisoners are now in St. Louis. The Iowa 2nd went down last night to guard them. Yesterday we followed the remains of our first comrade that has died to the grave. He first took the measles and was moved to the hospital. The doctor said it was lung fever that caused his death. There are two or three others very sick of the same trouble. The measles went through our Reg. in such a manner that out of 560 men only some 250 are on duty. At present John Felter is well again, so are some of the others that were first taken sick but there are some new cases every day. The chance is not good for taking care of a sick man in this place and the doctor is, in my opinion, not worth much, so that some that die would live if they had good care and skill. Our prospects are not very encouraging at present. We expect marching orders soon and half of the Regt. sick. I have reason to be thankful that while so many of my comrades have been sick and some have died my health has been good and spirits also. The burying ground is some three miles from camp. In going to and coming from it we had a chance to see some of the forts by which St. Louis is protected from any hostile movement of the Secesh. There are forts every mile or so on the most prominent position to sweep the roads and so it is all around St. Louis. Three hundred in the fort could keep out 3000. They are constructed in such a way it would seem almost impossible to take them. There were some three hundred soldiers' graves that had never been rained on where we buried our comrade. The graves are as close together as can be and are only about three feet deep. They have a good plain coffin and are decently buried. There being so many men in the various camps in the vicinity of

St. Louis and all their dead being buried in the same place accounts for so many graves newly filled. I have not the least doubt but the climate will kill more men than the rebels will. Such has been the case so far as much as ten to one.

Dec. 25 — Today is Christmas so we are not doing any thing. A good many have gone down town to spend the day. They will doubtless spend considerable money at any rate. I have not been in St. Louis since we came here. I intend to go down some day to see the sights but I thought it would be as well to wait until a more quiet time than today. We are not very strictly looked after in this camp and have as much to interest the curious as there is out. There are so many Artillery companies in this place at present it is very interesting for me to see them when on drill. It is a splendid sight to see a well drilled Artillery company going through their exercises. Things are as convenient in this place as can be. Anything can be got for money that can be got in St. Louis. The morning papers and evening also containing the latest news are sold by thousands night and morning. I said that anything could be got here but there is one article that is forbid within half a mile of camp that is strong drink of any kind which is strictly attended to, which is one good thing. Sometimes the boys get tight when they get to town. As soon as they come back they are marched to the guard house. There is no admission except at the gate and there are men stationed to see who comes in or goes out. If the officers don't do their duty they lay themselves liable to be punished so there is seldom any favor shown in that respect, not so in others however. A great many favors are shown in some respects however more of that when I come home. For my part I have no reason to grumble.

I will send you some of our St. Louis papers once in a while. The news will be old when you get them but there are some very good daily papers published in St Louis. John Gaston is not very well at present. I can't tell what ails him. It is not measles. I think it is something about his lungs. I hope it won't be very serious. He is my best friend and I could not have a better one. All the boys from Wolf Creek have a partiality for one another and are as kind and accommodating as can be. The probability is that as soon as the Regt. is in a condition to go we will be sent out to guard the North Mo. Railroad. The Secesh along it have been burning bridges and so forth and have to be attended to. I suppose we will be as well there as any other place. For my part I don't care where we go. It would not make any difference if I did. We would be apt to be healthier out in small squads than where there are so many together. Any thing like the measles, mumps, or any such thing getting into such a place as this is apt to go the rounds giving them all a call that has not before made their acquaintance but I must stop as I have some washing to do this afternoon. The sun shines out so nice for drying so I will close for the present your affect son

Camp Benton (St Louis)

Dec 29th, 1861

Dear brother: I received yours of 17th some time ago and would have answered it immediately had circumstances permitted it. There are so many of our boys sick, amongst whom are John Gaston and John Felter, that we have spent all our leisure time waiting on them. They are some better now and I think they will get along. It is the hardest part of our new mode of life seeing so many of our boys down at the same time. Only one has died so far but one or two are very low. We have not received our arms yet. We

might have had some old Austrian muskets belonging to Fremont, but upon trial our officers condemned them as not being fit for use. I was one of the party detailed to try them. Some forty men with 20 rounds of cartridges went outside the lines. We fired at a tree some forty rods off and about one shot in ten hit it. There was a fence a good distance beyond the tree. Most of the balls that missed the tree hit the fence. We all fired at the word and, it being the first time, some of the boys did not take very good aim. The guns kicked some of them over at the first fire so they took care how to hold them the next time. I happened to get a pretty good one. It did not kick much so I could fire it safely. Some of the locks broke in different places, so after a good deal of fun we concluded Uncle Sam would have to get us something better. They carried up strong enough, but seemed out of repair. We will probably get something better soon. We have some old muskets borrowed to practice the manual of arms so that we are in no hurry for our own guns. We expect to get our pay this week. It is two months since we were mustered into the United States service so we will get two months wages. They keep two dollars per month until we are discharged which is a good plan as most of the boys spend their money as fast as they get it. I am glad that [you] are taking hold of things so energetically and seem to get along so well in my absence. I shall save as much money as possible and send it to you as I get it. If the war ends sometime next summer and we get our bounty it will help some. If it continues longer and I keep my health I look for promotion but it is useless to speculate much in such things. I don't care much how it goes. I have no fears for the future. I intend to do my duty let things go as they may. There are ten chances for dying in the hospital for one by rebel bullets but I think when we get used to the climate our health

will be better. Frank has written to his father about the barrel so it won't be worth while for me to say anything about it. It is worth going to Marengo after. You can get some chance to send for it. I will not add more but remain your affect brother

Dear Sister Flora: I received your important and highly interesting epistle and shall not endeavor to reply in the same style as I have not much of the same kind of news. We have no girls to talk with in camp for which we ought to be thankful so we have no such doings as is going to happen with you on New Years Day. So Margret is married at last. Some of the rest of you had better be following in her steps. She has made a start. There are a good many to follow. Of course such things don't occupy my mind much at present whatever may have been the case in times gone by. Frank got the portrait of a certain young lady by mail the other day which is a great consolation to him. I don't mean to say that he needed any such consolation, he keeps his spirits firstrate. I think a great deal more of him since we left home than I did before. I received a letter from Jane the other day. She was well and in good spirits as usual. She wanted to know my opinion in regard to our difficulty with England.³¹ Of course I don't know any more about [it] than others that read about it in the papers. I guess it won't amount to much. For my part I am as willing to fight against England as any of our country's enemies but don't think it will have to be done at this time. I would like to see the rebels whipped first, which will be accomplished in a few months if things are managed as they ought to be. However I won't fret if it takes three years. I have got somewhat behind hand with my writing

³¹ The Wilson family had come from Scotland only ten years before the outbreak of the Civil War. The event referred to was probably the Trent Affair, involving the seizure of two Confederate agents on an English ship.

for the last few days so I will conclude for the present hoping to have time to write you a longer letter next time so no more from your brother

Since writing the foregoing John Gaston is much better, John Felter is also better. Another of our boys has died which I hope will be the last at present, as there is good hope of the rest.

Camp Benton Jan 1st 1862

Dear father:

I received your letter today. I think I have received all that you have written. There is such a continual hubbub in camp that when I sit down to write I am apt to overlook some things that I ought to mention, so I neglected to mention the receipt of your letters. I am very thankful for your good advice and although there is very little religion in this place still we have two or more sermons per week. Our Chaplain³² is a very good man, he is also a good preacher. He preaches only once on Sabbath but he generally preaches in the evenings in some of the Barracks. There is prayer meeting in some of the Companies frequently. I see no reason why a man can't be a Christian here as well as at home. There is so much swearing in this place it would set any one against that if from no other motive but disgust at hearing it. As for drinking I will not taste any thing intoxicating while in the army. I see the effects of it too plain. If I ever come home I will come home at least as good as far as morals is concerned as when I started. I am well aware of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death and shall try to be ready to meet my fate whatever it may be. There are two of our boys dead since we came to this place. There are over 400 of the soldiers from different states, over one fourth of which are

³² The Chaplain of the Fourteenth Iowa at this time was Samuel E. Benton of Anamosa.

from Iowa, whose graves have never been rained on yet. The deaths of our boys were a week apart. They bury each state by themselves numbering the graves so that if their friends should want them they can be found. Our first comrade's number was 100. In one week the second was buried, his number was 139.³³ So many of the Iowa boys in one week was rather startling but there are a good many men in the army that have not common sense enough to take care of themselves. I think with common prudence there is not much danger of being sick, at least no more here than in other places. For my part I have been in excellent health ever since I left home. But I have written long enough in this strain. We have not drilled much since Christmas, as they keep a good many holidays here in Mo. We have been offered some old muskets but have rejected them and expect to get something better soon. We have some borrowed ones to drill with. I begin to see how little the Buckingham drill-masters knew. It takes a long time to learn the whole rigmarole but we are getting along very well and by the spring will be a good Regiment, judging by others that have been in the service since last July. You may tell Mr. Gaston that John will be able to write to him soon. I don't know any thing more worth writing. If times were not so hard I would like to have you send me a few postage stamps. We have to pay as high as 15 percent for them here. It seems too much of a shave. I have money enough but hate to be cheated in such ways. I will write you once per week most of the time when I have as good a chance as I have at present. No more at present but remain your affect son

Camp Benton Jan 1st, '62

Dear brothers John, West & Andrew:

As I have so much writing to do this week you will excuse

³³ This number might be 129.

me for writing you all together. I received five letters today and was glad to hear from you all. There has been considerable sickness here lately but they are mostly getting well again. We have been rather idle since Christmas but will [be] drilling as usual after today. Andrew asks me how I like living in at & so forth. Since we moved into our tents the weather has been very pleasant. It is so much more quiet in the tent than in barracks and healthier that we like it much better. We have not [sic] but we get along very well. He asks how I like to be a soldier. That is more difficult to answer. There are a great many things connected with the life we now lead that I like very well and some things that I don't like so well. We are well used in every respect and our officers are generally well liked but there are a good many very hard cases to associate with. That is the only thing that would keep me from following the profession. They had a good deal of excitement in St. Louis last night. They have some Rebel prisoners in town. They tried to get away but failed. It was supposed some of their friends were going to help them. It was reported that Price³⁴ would soon be upon us, our pickets or guards stationed some five miles out being driven in by some small party of Secesh. Some of the more credulous believed we would be attacked right away, the more mischievous that like a joke raised all sort of rumors and some of the green ones were badly scared but it is all passed off quietly. There are a good many jokes played in this place. There are some of our men tired of being in the army already but some men can't be content any place. They will find it is not so easy to get out as it was to come. If they were ill used in any respect I would have more sympathy for them. There are some just as good fellows in our Co. as I ever

³⁴ Probably this reference is to General Sterling Price, who had been one of the Confederate officers at the Battle of Wilson's Creek and was still trying to swing Missouri into the Confederacy.

knew any where. I think we will be apt to stay in this place some time yet but we don't know and as far as I am concerned I care less. I like to be on the march so as to see the country if nothing more. We may yet go to Leavenworth but it is somewhat doubtful. There is no telling where nor when we may go from this place. Now boys I must finish. Tell me the next time you write how the Charley colt's leg is, how many steers you are going to work next spring and so on. Tell Allen when I come home I will get him his drum. There are lots of drummer boys in camp not bigger than David.³⁵ Good by, your brother

Benton Barracks

Jan 8th 62

Dear brother:

As this is the day that we usually get our letters from home I will begin before they arrive to answer them. We were paid off the other day receiving all that was due up to the first of Jan. I will send you fifteen dollars in this letter. I will try and spare more the next time. I had to spend money for a good many things that won't be wanted every pay day.

We buried another of our boys yesterday being the third in three weeks. In that time over 100 of the Iowa boys have died. It is principally lung fever that proves fatal. I would rather fight a battle every month than idle away our time where there is so much sickness. Lung complaints prevail more than anything else. Any one that has not good health has no business in this climate. There is not more than one-third of our Co. able to be on duty at present. The Buckingham boys fare no better than the others. None of them has been seriously ill but John Gaston. He is still very low, he don't seem to make much headway for the last week. It will be some time before he is well enough to be

³⁵ David and Allen were the two youngest of the Wilson boys.

up. Dewit & I have been well all the time. Frank is mostly pretty well. The others have been more or less sick for some time.

I have been waiting on the sick for the last two weeks. It takes four to keep them right. We sit up all night in turn. It is not a very pleasant job but there are so few that will do it as it ought to be done. The probability is I will be one of the waiters for some time. I think the change of climate has something to do with so much sickness³⁶ besides there are a good many bring on their own trouble by eating too much trash of one kind and another. Let that be as it may, the mortality in this camp is more than in the City of St. Louis. There are five or six recruiting officers gone to Iowa to raise three more Companies for this Regt. and to fill up the present Companies to the fullest extent.³⁷ They have been trying to get us to take some old condemned muskets but our officers are determined not to take anything but the best of arms. They have got hold of the wrong man when they try to impose on Col. Shaw.

We have not received marching orders yet but expect to go to Leavenworth within a week or two. The prospect of going to a healthier place is very encouraging but there are so many orders countermanded and so many false rumors that we may not go very soon. But I will quit for the present. If I receive your letters this afternoon I will probably write some more. At present good bye your affect brother

Benton Barracks Jan 10th, 62

Dear David:³⁸

I received your letter a day or two ago and would have

³⁶ Peter Wilson seems to have had no suspicion of the Missouri River water piped into camp and apparently used without treatment of any kind.

³⁷ The Fourteenth Iowa still lacked Companies A, B, and C, which had been sent to the Dakota frontier.

³⁸ Peter had a brother David, and a cousin, David Galt.

answered it sooner had circumstances permitted it. I forgot all about telling you not to write as I am likely to forget such things. I have a good many correspondents and a very noisy place to write so I seldom think about what I have written after the letter is gone. You seem to think I have been a little severe on the ragged Lairds of Tama. Perhaps I have but you must take it as the boy did when the long eared animal kicked him. I guess I have been rather slow about writing home the last week or two. I have been waiting on the sick and as I have been very busy both day and night I kept putting it off from day to day. We have had three deaths in so many weeks in Co. G. There is one or two more not likely to get well. It is hard to see men die through neglect and bad nursing which has been the cause of three-fourths of the deaths in our Regt. The average of deaths in the Iowa boys is about thirty per week. John Gaston has been sick some three weeks. He is getting better rather slowly. If he had had the same care as some of the rest his chance would have been rather slim for getting well. There have been some of us at his bedside ever since he got sick.

I think the general health will be better pretty soon. The change of climate generally has to be paid for. Yesterday I got a pass and spent the day sight-seeing in St. Louis. There is a railroad from the camp to any part of town. They carry passengers so cheap no one thinks of walking. I visited all the most popular places amongst which is where the Secesh prisoners are kept, the Arsenal, Museum, &c&c. It would take a good many days to see all the interesting places in town but I won't be apt to get out again very soon. Only one can go from each Co. per day so it takes some time to get round again.

The probability is we shall go to Fort Leavenworth in a week or two. You will see by the papers that Gen. Lane is going to take thirty of the western regiments for his expe-

dition.³⁹ The 14th is to be filled up but whether we will get to go or stay at Leavenworth remains to be seen. If the wishes of our officers have anything to do with it we will be sure to go down the river. For my part I am tired of doing nothing and hope we may get a chance to show what stuff the 14th is made of. That box sent by the Buckingham folks arrived the other day. It was very welcome, pillows and such things are very comfortable things for sick men. I put one of the pillows under Gaston's head as soon as the box was open. It has done him a great deal of good.

Jan. 13. We have got our guns today. They are not very good but they will do to drill with. They say we will get something better if we ever have need for them. We are all things considered pretty well rigged out. There is little chance for our seeing any fighting this winter. If the war continues we may get a chance next summer. Several Regts. left this morning for Cairo. Camp Benton is getting pretty well thinned. I don't think there are more than 8 or 10,000 altogether here at present. They still keep going for one place and another. I get letters from the 13th. They are guarding railroad bridges. I will send you one of the letters so you can see how they get along. I had intended to give you a general description of Co. G some time or other. We have got the name of being the best Co. in the Reg. as far as drilling goes. We have the most and loudest swearers. We are said to have more quarrelling among ourselves, which is probably the case, than any other Co. in the Reg. We have some men that Stivers found in Davenport that ought to be in States prison or some such place. They shirk every duty they can, break guard, and go to

³⁹ This reference apparently refers to the "Great Southern Expedition" which was to have been led into Arkansas by General James H. Lane. It did not materialize.

town. When they come back they have to carry a stick of cord wood sometimes one and two days opposite headquarters. It is a very humiliating punishment to any one that has any pride but our boys take it as cool as can be.

We have half a dozen Dutchmen, one of which makes us more fun than any other 10 men in the Co. He is hardly sensible. He is very spunky. The boys have plagued him so much he is out of patience with everything. The other day a stranger came up and asked him some questions. He did not understand what the stranger said so he did as he always does, that is to pitch in with all his might. It was very amusing to us to see the astonishment of the stranger at such usage. But I need not write about such things. If the war is soon over I can tell you all about it when I come home. If it lasts long I will have plenty of time to write. I think the next time you hear from me we will be at Leavenworth. We are sure to go sooner or later. We expect to go in a few days but may not so soon. But I must finish at present. Give my respects to all so no more at present but remain yours &c

Benton Barracks Jan 20th 62

Dear brother:

I received a letter yesterday dated Jan. 1st. I received one last Wednesday dated Jan. 9th so you see letters sometimes get delayed. It usually takes 4 days for a letter to come from Wolf Creek to this place. The letters you post on Saturday we generally get on Wednesday afternoon. I guess you don't get our letters so soon. You tell me in last nights letter that the barrels we sent are as good as lost. The stuff that I sent in the first one was worth ten or twelve dollars that in the second was not much of mine. We sent them to Marengo in care of Graham of Toledo. Frank Thomas has been writing to the freight agent at Davenport. He don't get much satisfaction. They may turn up yet. If

they don't let them go. I have received a good many letters lately one from Doc. Daniel among the rest. It is getting to be pretty hard work for me to answer them, that is I am somehow getting out of the notion of writing.

We expected to have been at Leavenworth before this time. The reason they say why we are still here is they are full out there at present while here we are getting so much thinned by the troops going down the river that they need us where we are at present.

We shall probably be here some time yet at least I won't believe we are going any more untill we start. The boys are mostly well again. Gaston is doing first rate. There are a few grunting around with the mumps but they are doing well enough I had almost made up my mind the first month we were here that I never would winter in Iowa again. However I have changed my mind somewhat the last two or three weeks. It has not rained much but the mud is awful. I suppose it is worse in camp where there are so many men and horses. The parade ground is about the consistency of mud when it is ready for making brick. It is very unpleasant, but we have no women to scold us when we come in so we don't get into difficulty on that score. We are inspected every Sunday. We have to keep things in pretty good trim. I sent you some money in my last letter if you have not said any thing about receiving it when you get this, please to lose no time in doing so. If it gets lost I will be more careful next time. I don't know that I have any more to write at present I must say a few words to Flora or rather write a few lines.

So at present good by from your brother

Benton Barracks Jan 20th 62

Dear Sister Flora:

I have received several letters since I last wrote you so

I am getting somewhat behind hand with my writing but you must not expect that I can answer all your letters. Sometimes I can get a chance to write and sometimes I can't. At best it is very poor, but I will write as often as I can and let it go at that. I don't know whether those that have left Wolf Creek had any influence to keep things quiet. It seems however since they left there is a great change in their behaviour. I suppose it is all right. I am glad to hear you are enjoying yourselves. We that have left have had better times than we could have expected. We have been rather quiet for some time for reasons already stated but we intend to make that up by and by.

I received two letters from D. Galt⁴⁰ in as many weeks. I was much surprised at getting the second one. However I am pleased greatly to think that he is making up for lost time. I was beginning to think he had forgotten all about us. I have written as much as twenty different individuals that have not answered me. Of course they will not be troubled with any more of my letters. You need not think that I am out of humor at present. If you could just take a peep at me as I sit writing this you would at once conclude that I am in good humor as usual. But I am writing a great deal about myself this time. I will now state how the other boys are getting along which can be done in a few words. John Felter after getting better of every other trouble has got the mumps. He is doing well and will soon be all right. The rest of the boys have not been sick to amount to any thing so they are at their usual duties and in their usual spirits. We have some men in Co. G that are terribly homesick so much. However it is not any one that you know so it would not be interesting to say much about them. There are some men that have no idea of going through with what

⁴⁰ Possibly this is the David to whom Peter Wilson wrote on January 10, 1862.

they undertake. Such men had better not join the army. There is no getting out when they are once in. There are some ill-behaved rascals that Stivers got at Davenport that are continually kicking up rows and getting themselves into trouble. They are dealt with pretty severely now. They have been up before the Col. so often he puts them through and no one pities them. But I must finish, not having any more news. Give my respects to old Mrs. Young and the rest, your affect brother,

Benton Barracks

Jan 21st 62

Dear Father:

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We generally get our letters from home on Wednesday evening so tomorrow night I will be apt to get several letters. I guess it takes much longer for a letter to go home than it does for one to come from home to this place. We generally get a letter from home in four days. You know how long it takes to get from here home. However it matters little so as you get them some time.

Things go on pretty much as usual here, the same old routine every day. It is and has been very muddy for some time, the most so of anything I ever saw. So many men and horses plunging round keep the mud very deep. It has banished all my thoughts of making Missouri my future home. The sick boys are mostly well, all out of danger but our Lieut. Gallagher. He is very low, his chance is slim of getting well.⁴¹ It is a different thing to be sick here to what is at home. Some of the boys that died, with proper and good care, would have lived but it is useless to fret about such things. It can't well be otherwise in such a place as this. Our Reg. is fitted out with all necessary fix-

⁴¹ Lieutenant Gallagher did, however, recover.

ins. We expect to go Leavenworth sometime between now and spring. We are doing tolerable where we are but we would be healthier out there which makes us anxious to leave this place. I suppose the reason we did not go there before this time is Lane's expedition is gathering there, so the place is full while this place is almost empty compared with what it was when we came here. Gaston is doing first rate now. He will soon be all right. The other Wolf Creek boys are all well at least as well as usual.

I did not intend to write much this time, I have not much to write. I suppose from the prices times are pretty hard with you. Money is plenty here but we soldiers have to submit to a great many shaves. The only way is not to purchase anything but what is absolutely necessary, which is my plan as far as possible. If we should leave this place soon which is not unlikely I will write when we leave and when we get to our destination. At any rate I will write next week, so at present I will finish from your affect son

Benton Barracks

Dear brother:

Jan 23rd, 62

I received your letter dated Jan. 16 last night and among other things received the intelligence that the barrels had got home at last. You seem to get along first rate in all your arrangements which gives me pleasure although my time is taken up with other matters. I am glad to inform you that the Co. is fast getting well and begins to look respectable on drill once more. Since we got our guns I like drilling much better although I liked it well enough before. Now however we look more like business. Our muskets would kill a man pretty certain at 20 rods. The bayonet on it makes it about all the weapon that is necessary. I have got out of the notion of getting a revolver as they cost so much and are so unlikely to be of any use. A good many

have got them but they are more bother than profit. If I stay long in the army I will get a watch as that is indispensable while on guard duty. We have to be punctual in relieving the guards. The officers both commissioned and noncommissioned have to keep their eyes peeled or they get put through. One of our corporals has been reduced to the rank for a very small offence and the Captain is now under arrest for three days for not obeying orders. Being under arrest means simply stay in the quarters, not going out any where. It is rather galling for the Cap. but Caps. have to obey as well as other folks. We have a good many shines to relieve the monotony of camp life. There is an old big Dutchman that has been furnishing some of the lovers of something good to drink with lager beer. The other day as he was passing along behind our quarters our Major stopped him, got into the wagon which contained some fifteen or twenty kegs of beer. He took out the end board and rolled the kegs out on the ground. The old Major was jumping mad and went into the cook house to get an axe to hack the ends out of the kegs. By this time a great crowd had collected and the kegs by some unaccountable means began rapidly to disappear. By the time the Major got ready to smash the kegs there was none to be found. He immediately began to search for the lost kegs. Some of them he found, mostly empty by this time. He was determined to make an example of some one and continued his search. He came into our quarters and found a keg to all appearances full. He pulled out the plug and strange to tell instead of beer pure water gurgled out. The Major left, amongst ill suppressed laughter. The beer had been drunk and the boys, liking some fun, filled the keg with water hiding it where he would be sure to find it. We have some good jokes but they won't hardly pay for writing. But I must finish at present as you will be tired of this nonsense so no more from,

your affect Brother Peter

Benton Barracks, Jan 30th, 62

Dear Brother:

I received your letter dated Jan. 23 today. As usual I was glad to hear that you are all well and getting along well as usual. We are all well and are getting along first-rate. The health of the Co. is greatly improved. The most of the men are on duty again and things begin to look more promising. There is a good deal of sickness in the Iowa 2nd Cavalry. They came from Davenport some time after we did and have gone through about the same kind of trouble. One of their men told me today that out of their Co. that was full when they came here, 10 had died and all the rest but 11 were of[f] duty. Their Reg. has suffered worse than we have. Their duties are much harder than ours, they are out in almost all kinds of weather and are kept busy all the time so we may thank our stars that we don't belong to the Cavalry. I hear no more about our leaving this place at present. There are only some two or three Regts. of Infantry here at present with ten or twelve of Cavalry so we seem to be as much needed to garrison this place as any thing. On the whole I don't know that we need care. We are passing the winter pretty easy and if we stay here much longer the spring will soon be on hand. If we go into active service we will have better weather to be moving around than it now is.

Although our work is about the same day after day, still for my part I never get tired of it. There is always something interesting going on. The other day I was on guard. I had quite an interesting time and in order to make you understand something about it I will try and give you an idea what standing guard is. In the first place there are so many men detailed from each Co. every morning to stand for the next twenty-four hours. The Adjutant of each Reg. sends the number of men wanted to the Orderly who details

the men in turn. Guard mounting as they call it comes of[f] at nine in the morning. The guard is divided up into three divisions, each division is divided into three reliefs. Each relief has one Corporal & one Sergeant. There is one commissioned officer to each division. He is called the Officer of the Guard. Then over all there is a Col. or Major who is Officer of the Day. His business is to ride from one place to another and see that things are done right. Besides the outside guard there is a prison guard. I had frequently been on line guard, but never untill the other day had the luck to get on prison guard. I got on the first relief and stationed my men at their respective posts, then according to rule went around and took their name, Co. & Reg. That is done so that if they leave their post they can be found and punished. I then took a look into the prison to see what kind of a place it was and what kind of inhabitants it contained. There were some thirty or forty prisoners, some of the most hardened, degraded wretches that I ever saw or expect to see. They were loose, running around something like a nest of hornets, fighting with one another, cursing and brawling. There were four guards stationed inside of the door, four on the outside, so they could not expect to get out, so we had no trouble with them on that score. The four that were inside the [prison] were immediately attacked, first with all kinds of abusive language and any thing that could be found to throw at them. They did not happen to be very plucky and the prisoners soon found it out. They called for me as the guards always do when they get into trouble. If the Corporal can't decide the case he calls for the Sergt. and he in turn for the Officer of the Guard. I told the boys to use their bayonets if they did not behave so they quieted down for a time cursing me for everything that was bad and worse. The second relief came on at twelve and the third at two, the first again at

four. Before I posted my relief that time I called for volunteers to stand inside the door and four of the best jumped at the chance for fun. The prisoners however could see the change and kept quiet as mice untill the second relief came on. Being relieved at six, we went home for our supper and returned about the time the third relief was going on so we had to wait two hours before our relief came on again. The day and night was very wet so we were lucky in getting on prison guard, as we were in the house all the time. During the time the third relief was on, the prisoners got up a row among themselves. The Sergeant going in to make peace, the lights were knocked out and some one hit the Sergeant on the head and felled him to the floor. I heard the fuss and taking a light hurried in in time to see the Sergeant getting up and drawing his revolver. He was just in the humor to use it, but he did not know who knocked him down so he had to content himself with putting a ball and chain to the feet of five of the worst. It would have been a hard job but for the revolver. They knew that if they made any resistance they would get a ball through their body. After getting them quiet once more we let the fire go out and as they had the windows all broke it got cold so they went to bed. I thought I would get along quiet for the rest of the night. My relief came on after due time and I had just lain down to take a few hours sleep when the Officer of the Day came round and called for one private and one Corporal to go with him on the grand round and again I must explain a little. Sometime during each night the Officer of the Day with a noncommissioned officer and a private go all round the camp and see that all the sentinels are at their post and understand their business. We went clear round the camp, only four miles. It was raining hard and very muddy. I had to go ahead and do the talking. When within ten or fifteen yards of the sentinel, he calls loudly, halt, who comes

there? My reply was grand rounds. Advance, Sergeant of the grand round, and give the countersign which I had to do over the point of the bayonet or sabre as the case might be. We found some off their beat which is a guard house offence. We found another drunk and brought him with us to the guard house. The Officer of the Day was a Col. in the Second Ohio Cavalry. He was not very strict so those that were anything near their post were let go as the night was too dark and wet to make it an object for anyone to run the guard. But I guess I may as well stop writing about things that you can't have much interest in. I thought I would give you some thing of an idea of what kind of times we sometimes have in camp. There is not a day passes but we have some shines of some kind. I can't describe things so you can understand them as you are unacquainted with all parts of our business. However you can take it just as it is. What you don't understand you can let it go as it is not much difference. We have had regimental inspection today and Co. G, heretofore hated by the field officers, has beat all the rest in having every thing in the best order and the most men out and making the best appearance generally. We have the fewest number of men and always have the most men on duty. We have been looked after very strictly for some time by the Major to see if he could catch us in some scrape. I guess we will get along first-rate—now that Stivers is gone. If he had not resigned he would have been court martialed for insulting his superiors. But I must finish. We are all well, Gaston and all. There are four of our boys in the hospital, two have lost their health and will be sent home, the other two will soon be with us again. Give my respects to Mr. & Mrs. Young and the rest of the neighbours and bidding good bye for the present I remain

your Affect brother Peter Wilson

Camp Benton, Jan. 31st, 62

Dear Sister Flora:

I received your letter the other day and was as usual glad to hear from you. It is all that I need to make me as content [as] can be to know that you are all well and getting along well. I have not any thing to write about that I can think about that would interest you but I must write something. We are getting to have merry times once more and getting to understand ourselves as soldiers pretty well. It takes close attention to get into all the forms of our various duties but if men will attend to their business they soon learn to do all that is required of them in a soldier-like manner. The better behaved a man is the better his officers like him and his comrades also. The 14th is said to be the best behaved Reg. in camp. There is only one of our Reg. in the guard house which can't be said of any other Reg. in Camp Benton. There are some Regs. in camp that were got up in large cities such as Chicago that have a great many rowdies in them. One or two such in a Co. keep up a continual disturbance but I need not write about such things as they won't interest you much. Since the boys got sick we have mostly been in the Barracks again and we have not moved into the tents as John is hardly well enough to stay out. So the boys have got into the old practice dancing in the evening. They are going ahead at present so that it is up hill work for me to keep my mind on what I am doing. The Lieuts. are going through a cotillion with the rest of the boys. We are fortunate in having officers that are all we could wish. When not in the ranks they are just as much in for fun as any of the boys. The[y] put on no airs but use us like men which is not always the case in the army which I have seen to my satisfaction since we came to Camp Benton. Lieut. Gallagher has been very sick but is getting well again. He is much respected in the Co. for his manly

qualities. I think if his Sis is single when we come home I will call and see her but I may forget all about it before that time. I have received but one letter this week from Buckingham but my luck may be better next week. I have begun to keep a list of all the letters received and sent so that I won't forget to answer any of them. Give my respects to Margret McDowall and tell her to send me a few lines sometime soon. I would like to hear from Robert Young. I was much pleased to get a letter from Jane Young but I may as well quit as there is so much fuss I can't think of any thing more to write, so good bye for the present,

Benton Barracks

Dear father:

Feb 4th, 1862

We expected to have left this place today but we will not start untill tomorrow. Some three or four weeks ago we got some very poor muskets. We came very near getting into difficulty with our officers about taking them, but we received them under promise that we would get better before we left this place. According to promise we gave up our first guns and today we have received the very best, lightest, and altogether the best rifled musket in use so we are in good spirits with everything, knowing that if we ever get in sight of the enemy we have got something fit to fight with. We are cooking three days rations so that we conclude we are either going down to Cairo or some point down the river or Fort Leavenworth. We care little which way we go. We consider ourselves fit to go any where that any other Reg. is able to go but there is so much confusion it is impossible to write. As soon as we get to our destination I will write again,⁴²

Your affect Son Peter Wilson

⁴² The next letter was written from Fort Henry, Tennessee. Actual war service had begun.

SOME PUBLICATIONS

The Norwegian-American Historical Association has recently issued Volume XII of the *Norwegian-American Studies and Records*. This number includes ten articles on various phases of Norwegian-American life and culture: *Norwegian-American Surnames*, by Marjorie M. Kimmerle; *Norwegian Folk Narrative in America*, by Ella Valborg Rolvaag; *A Journey to America in the Fifties*, by Clara Jacobson; *James Denoon Reymert and the Norwegian Press*, by Martin L. Reymert; *Recollections of a Norwegian Pioneer in Texas*, by Knudt Olson Hastvedt, translated and edited by C. A. Clausen; *Norwegian Clubs in Chicago*, by Birger Osland; *Buslett's Editorship of Normannen from 1894 to 1896*, by Evelyn Nelsen; *Ole Edvart Rolvaag*, by John Heitmann; *Ole Evinrude and the Outboard Motor*, by Kenneth Bjork; and *Some Recent Publications Relating to Norwegian-American History*, compiled by Jacob Hodnefield.

Burlington West A Colonization History of The Burlington Railroad. By Richard C. Overton. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 1941. Pp. 583. Plates, maps. This is a valuable and interesting account of the extension of the Burlington railroad system westward from Chicago to the Rocky Mountains during the years from 1850 to 1940. It is, however, more than a history of a railroad, for it includes material on the land grants and their relation to sectional divisions, the companies which handled the lands granted to railroads, the complications of the swampland grants, and colonization work of the railroads. The progress of the Burlington railroad and its subsidiaries is traced across Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska, with a discussion of problems of railroad building, the effects of the Civil War, and the crisis of the seventies. The volume is attractively printed and illustrated and is provided with a map, bibliography, footnotes, and an index. The social side of railroad building presented in this volume ties the railroads in with the settlement and organization of the communities along the

line and is a good cross section of the evolution of the railroad frontier into the present-day communities. There is much Iowa history in this book and the volume is unusually valuable to students of middle western history.

Edward Creighton and the Pacific Telegraph, by P. Raymond Nielson, is one of the articles in *Mid-America* for January, 1942.

Helps in History Research, by Melvin Gingerich, is one of the articles in the *Mennonite Historical Bulletin* for October, 1941.

Bulletin Number 3 of the National Archives is *The Care of Records in a National Emergency*. The bulletin includes a bibliography on the conservation of cultural resources in war time.

The Missouri Historical Society has recently issued Volume VIII in its published series of *Debates of the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1875*. The series has been edited by Isidor Loeb and Floyd C. Shoemaker.

United States Waterway Packetmarks 1832-1899, by Eugene Klein, presents a little known phase of American postal history. This compilation presents pictures and data on the mail-carrying packets on the Mississippi River.

Local History and Winning the War, by Sylvester K. Stevens, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, has been published as Volume I, Number 2 of the *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History*.

The American Philosophical Society has recently published *Contributions to the Archaeology of the Illinois River Valley*, by Frank C. Baker, James B. Griffin, Richard G. Morgan, George K. Neumann, and Jay L. B. Taylor. This constitutes Part 1 of Volume XXXII of the New Series.

Trends in Newspaper Content, by Frank Luther Mott; *Reporting the Washington News*, by Richard Wilson; and *The Role of*

the Weekly Newspaper, by Charles E. Rogers, are three articles by Iowans in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 219, January, 1942.

Minnesota History for December, 1941, contains the following articles and papers: *Pioneer Bookshelves and Modern Libraries*, by Theodore C. Blegen; *The Knights of Labor in Minnesota*, by George B. Engberg; and *Finnish Temperance Societies in Minnesota*, by John Ilmari Kolehmainen.

The Historic American Buildings Survey has recently published a volume entitled *Historic American Building Survey Catalog*. This contains a list of the measured drawings and photographs of historic buildings in the Library of Congress on March 1, 1941. Thirty-eight edifices in Iowa are listed.

The Background of Public Speaking in Missouri, 1840-1860, by Dudley J. Bidstrup; *St. Louis and the Great Whisky Ring*, by Lucius S. Guese; *St. Charles, City of Paradoxes*, by Floyd C. Shoemaker; and *Some Aspects of Early Indian Fur Trade*, by Isabel S. Dolch, are articles in the January issue of the *Missouri Historical Review*.

A Glimpse of Frankfort, Kentucky, by Willard Rouse Jillson, and *Kentucky's Sesquicentennial*, by H. V. McChesney, are two articles in the January, 1942, number of *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*. There is also a continuation of *The Letters of Colonel Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky*, edited by James A. Padgett.

Pittsburgh and the Beginnings of the Petroleum Industry to 1866, by Paul H. Giddens; *Notes on Pittsburgh Transportation Prior to 1890*, by Henry Oliver Evans; and *Allegheny County Common Pleas Court Law Judges, 1791-1939*, by James H. Gray, are the articles in *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* for September, 1941.

Return of the Confederate Flags, by Maynard Hill; *Governor John S. Barry*; *First Celebration Of Washington's Birthday In Michigan*, by F. Clever Bald; *The Universities of Virginia and*

Michigania, by Dr. Egbert R. Isbell; and *Religion and Assimilation of the Dutch in Michigan*, by Dr. Paul Honigsheim, are articles in the 1942 Winter Number of the *Michigan History Magazine*.

The second number of the *Agricultural History Series*, published by the United States Department of Agriculture in January, contains *Some Landmarks in the History of the Department of Agriculture*, by T. Swann Harding. Number three contains *Price Administration, Priorities, and Conservation of Supplies Affecting Agriculture in the United States, in 1917-18*, by Arthur G. Peterson.

The January issue of *Agricultural History* contains the following articles: *The Story of Rileyville, New Jersey*, by Paul A. Herbert; *The Poet and the Plough*, by Clark Emery; *The Western Farmers and the Drivewell Patent Controversy*, by Earl W. Hayter; *Changing Economy and Rural Security in Massachusetts*, by John Useem; and *Crop Husbandry in Eighteenth Century England*, Part 2, by G. E. Fussell and Constance Goodman.

Papers of Edward P. Costigan Relating to the Progressive Movement in Colorado 1902-1917, edited by Colin B. Goodykoontz, has been published as Volume IV of the *University of Colorado Historical Collections*. The papers are from a collection belonging to the University of Colorado and deal with the Progressive movement in Colorado up to 1917, when Mr. Costigan was appointed to the United States Tariff Commission.

The Wisconsin Archeologist for December, 1941, contains the following articles: *Wisconsin Museums, 1941*, by Charles E. Brown; *Indian Winter Legends*, by Dorothy Moulding Brown; *Display Classifications*, by W. E. Erdman; and *What Are You Going to Do with Your Collections of Relics?*, by L. L. Cooke. The March, 1942, issue contains *The Hagner Indian Mounds*, by Kermit Freckmann, and *A Copper Adze*, by Charles E. Brown.

The December, 1941, number of the *Indiana Magazine of History* contains the following articles and papers: *Indiana Looks at the World War, 1914*, by Cedric C. Cummins; *David Starr Jordan as*

a *Literary Man*, by David H. Dickason; *Evansville Steamboats During the Civil War*, by Milford M. Miller; and *Indiana Historical Society*, by Christopher B. Coleman. There is also a document, *Two Accounts of the Upper Wabash Country, 1819-20*, edited by Dorothy Riker.

Papers in Illinois History and Transactions for the Year 1940 contains the following articles and papers: *Rivers That Meet in Egypt*, by Barbara Burr Hubbs; *Robert Kennicott—Pioneer Illinois Natural Scientist and Arctic Explorer*, by James Alton James; *Egypt's Cultural Contribution*, by G. W. Smith; *Robert Green Ingersoll*, by C. H. Cramer; and *The Great Chicago Fire, October 8-10, 1871*, by H. A. Musham. There is also an account of the Proceedings of the Society for 1940.

The State and Local History News for January contains an account of the local history program at the meeting of the American Historical Association in December, 1941. It included a symposium on "Increasing the Membership of Historical Societies", with L. Hubbard Shattuck, of the Chicago Historical Society, presiding. Speakers were Floyd C. Shoemaker, of the State Historical Society of Missouri, Paul M. Angle, of the Illinois State Historical Society, William G. Roelker, of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and Richard L. Beyer, of the Southern Illinois Historical Society.

A Review and an Introduction, by W. A. Titus, in the December, 1941, issue of *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, tells briefly of the men at the head of Wisconsin Historical Society activities. Five men are listed in this review — Increase A. Lapham, Dr. Lyman C. Draper, Dr. Reuben Gold Thwaites, Dr. Milo M. Quaife, Dr. Joseph Schafer, and Dr. Edward P. Alexander. Other articles in this number are: *The Town of Two Creeks, Manitowoc County*, by J. F. Wojta; *Lumber Rafting on the Wisconsin River*, by W. H. Glover; *John Hagen, Eminent European Astronomer, Sojourns in Wisconsin*, by W. B. Faherty; *The Mission House in the Eighties*, by J. J. Schlicher; and *Wisconsin at West Point: Her Graduates Through the Civil War Period*, by George T. Ness, Jr. Under *Documents* there is *Christian Traugott Ficker's Advice to Emigrants*.

IOWANA

The Rotarian for March includes an article about Marengo, Iowa, by Grace McIllrath Ellis, under the title *Where Grownups Go to School*.

Bulletin 152 of the Iowa Engineering Experiment Station is entitled *Analysis of Highway Costs and Highway Taxation With an Application to Story County, Iowa*, by E. D. Allen.

The Iowa State Conservation Commission has begun the publication of a monthly bulletin under the name *Iowa Conservationist*. The first number appeared in February, 1942.

Research Bulletin 293 of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Iowa State College of Agriculture contains *Incoming and Outgoing Payments of Iowa Farm Families*, by Lawrence Witt.

Pioneer Recollections Stories and Pictures Depicting the Early History and Development of Benton County, compiled by Harley Ransom, has recently been published by The Historical Publishing Company of Vinton, Iowa.

The Iowa Publisher for January includes *A Reader Interest Survey Of The Fayette County Union* (West Union), by Earl English. *Iowa Farmers May Earn a Billion Dollars in 1942*, by D. D. Tucker, is one of the articles in the February number.

Medical History of Calhoun County, by Dr. Paul W. Van Metre, is the historical contribution in the January number of *The Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society*. The February and March numbers contain the *Medical History of Webster County*, by Dr. William W. Bowen.

The Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration has recently published a *Guide to Public Vital Statistics in Iowa*. The publication was sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the Department of History and Archives and the State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics.

Teaching Democracy to Our Youth, by Harrison J. Thornton, and *An Historical Sketch of School Code Revision*, by Cameron M.

Ross, are two articles in the January issue of *Midland Schools*. The February number contains *Science Brings New Life to Iowa's Golden Acres The Story of Hybrid Corn*, by E. P. Schindler.

The Iowa Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in Iowa has recently published, in mimeographed form, a volume entitled *Johnson County History*. The volume is sponsored by the Johnson County Superintendent of Schools and the foreword was written by F. J. Snider.

The History and Government Department of the Iowa State College of Agriculture has issued a sixth number in its series *The Challenge to Democracy*. This number is entitled *Toward a New Rural Statesmanship* and was prepared by Earle D. Ross. It appears as Bulletin P. 26 (New Series), of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

Non-Farm Training for Farm Youth, by R. H. Norris and R. J. Nickle, and *Rural Leadership*, by W. H. Stacy, are two articles in the *Iowa Farm Economist* for January. *How Can We Feed Them?*, a discussion of food in the war emergency, by Roland Welborn and Walter W. Wilcox, and *Examining F S A in Iowa*, by Calvin C. Stillman, are two articles in the February number.

The Iowa Sportsman has now been enlarged in geographical scope and renamed *Midwest Sportsman*. The number for December, 1941-January, 1942, includes an account of the meeting of the Midwest Wildlife Conference held at Des Moines on December 4, 5, and 6, 1941. Kenneth A. Reid, executive secretary of the Izaak Walton League of America, criticised the indiscriminate building of dams by Federal agencies. Governor George A. Wilson, Dr. Ira Gabrielson, and Jay N. Darling ("Ding") were the speakers at the banquet held on December 4th.

The *Annals of Iowa* for January contains the following articles: *Securing the Juvenile Court Law for Iowa*, by Hazel Hillis; *The Game Book of George E. Poyneer*, edited by James R. Harlan; and *Wagon Roads West The Sawyers Expeditions of 1865, 1866*, with a map, by Alice V. Myers. This number also contains an account of

the Iowa Association of Local Historical Societies, with a list of twenty-nine local historical societies, and a sketch of the fifty years of the Iowa Department of History and Archives.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

Marker is dedicated at the grave of Zimmri Streeter, character in Bess Streeter Aldrich's "Song of Years", in the *Waverly Journal*, October 24, 1940.

Death of James N. Hayes, former State Representative, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 28, and the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, October 29, 1940.

History of Thurman School, in the *Sidney Argus-Herald*, October 31, 1940.

Death of Judge Robert H. Munger, in the *Sioux City Tribune*, October 31, 1940.

Mrs. Harriet Van Dorn recalls her trip to the far West in 1870, in the *Polk City Citizen*, November 1, 1940.

The history of Iowa that didn't get written by "Ret" Clarkson, by Harvey Ingham, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 2, 1940.

Historian Bancroft offered \$50,000 for *Des Moines Register* files for history of Middle West, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 2, 1940.

Sketch of the life of A. L. Rule, in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, November 4, 1940.

Death of District Judge Robert H. Munger of Sioux City, in the *Sloan Star*, November 7, 1940.

Commemorating the inauguration of Samuel N. Stevens as sixth president of Grinnell College, in the *Grinnell Herald-Register*, November 7, 1940.

First settlers in Thurman were Mormons, in the *Hamburg Reporter*, November 7, 1940.

Discovery of a mastodon's tooth belonging to an 8000-pound animal near Waterloo, in the *Waterloo Courier*, November 10, 1940.

Death of former Representative Herbert A. Huff, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, November 11, 1940.

Robert Wilson, formerly of Burlington, is assigned to newly-opened consulate at Bahia Blanca, Argentine, in the *Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette*, November 11, 1940.

Death of Mrs. Jennie King Farley, daughter of John King, founder of the *Dubuque Visitor*, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, November 13, 1940.

Mrs. Ruth Hamilton, formerly of Alta, was elected State Representative in New Hampshire, in the *Alta Advertiser*, November 14, 1940.

Orville B. Talley collection is deposited in the public museum of Sioux City, in the *Sioux City Journal*, November 17, 1940.

Death of Michael Hawk, Sioux City's last Civil War veteran, in the *Sioux City Tribune*, November 18, 1940.

Death of James C. McClune, former State Representative and State Auditor, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 20, 1940.

Julian C. Spurgeon collection has over 10,000 Indian arrowheads and other relics, in the *Ottumwa Courier*, November 20, 1940.

Osborn W. Deignan, honored for service in Spanish-American War, was born at Stuart, in the *Stuart Herald*, November 21, 1940.

Rear Admiral William D. Leahy, appointed United States ambassador to France, was born in Hampton, in the *Waterloo Courier*, November 25, 1940.

Mahaska County historical association is organized, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, November 27, 1940.

Death of Herbert I. Foskett, banker and former State Senator, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 4, 1941.

Work of Ellison Orr, archaeologist, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 5, 1941.

Foundations of Old Fort Atkinson are uncovered, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 5, and the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, October 11, 1941.

Bronze plaque dedicated to John Loe, founder of Leif Ericson park in Sioux City, in the *Sioux City Journal*, October 6, 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Spooner of Spooner Show Company celebrate sixtieth wedding anniversary, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, October 6, 1941.

Death of Nathan A. Phipps, a founder of Cherokee, in the *Cherokee Times*, October 6, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Professor George J. Fritschel, historian and author, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, October 7, and the *Des Moines Register*, October 8, 1941.

Historical sketch of Red Oak Grove and Tipton Presbyterian churches, 1841-1941, in the *Tipton Advertiser*, October 9, 1941.

Major General Ross E. Rowell, United States marine corps officer, was born in Ruthven, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, October 14, 1941.

History of the last of the pioneer log cabins in Wapello County, in the *Ottumwa Courier*, October 15, 1941.

Mark H. Morse, 100-year-old Civil War veteran of Wyoming, has relic collection, in the *Monticello Express* and the *Anamosa Journal*, October 16, 1941.

Sketch of the life of A. O. Wakefield, jurist, in the *Sioux City Journal*, October 16, 1941.

Four Iowans among crew members of the torpedoed destroyer *Kearney*, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 18, 1941.

Death of Mrs. Mary Furrow, believed to be first white child born in Bremer County, in the *Des Moines Register*, October 18, 1941.

Interesting relics in Turner Hall ruins, in the *Guttenberg Press*, October 23, 1941.

Marker on site of main street of Manti, pioneer village, in the *Shenandoah Sentinel*, October 23, 1941.

Some early historical sketches relating to Webster City, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, October 25, 1941.

Old Harlan Home to be student center for Iowa Wesleyan students, in the *Mt. Pleasant News*, October 25, and the *Des Moines Register*, October 26, 1941.

Mrs. Christine Larson is centenarian, in the *Chariton Herald-Patriot*, October 30, 1941.

Henry Shreve, Mississippi keelboatman, and the Sac and Fox Indians, in the *Decorah Journal*, October 30, 1941.

"Mount Ayr Methodist Ministers I Have Known", in the *Ringgold County (Mount Ayr) Bulletin*, November, 1941.

Sketch of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Lesan, in the *Ringgold County (Mount Ayr) Bulletin*, November, 1941.

Death of Mrs. Al Ringling recalls famous troupe who lived in McGregor, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 2, 1941.

"Recollections of John Brown", by William M. Brooks, quoted from *Tabor College Monthly*, in the *Tabor Beacon*, November 5, 1941.

Personal reminiscences of McGregor, in the (McGregor) *North Iowa Times*, November 6, 1941.

Origin of some Iowa place-names in the "True Tall Corn Tales" series, in the *St. Ansgar Enterprise*, November 6, 1941.

Lars Iverson, pioneer of Winneshiek County, in the *Decorah Journal*, November 6, 1941.

Citizens of Clinton and Anamosa celebrate in 1871 at completion of Iowa Midland Railroad, in the *Clinton Herald*, November 6, 1941.

Sketch of the life of J. C. Bonwell, 99, Civil War veteran and former legislator, in the *Coon Rapids Enterprise*, November 7, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Willoughby Dye, pioneer Macedonia merchant and one-time State Representative, in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, November 12, 1941.

One hundred years of the Iowa City Trinity Episcopal Church, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, November 12, 1941.

Mrs. Margaret Strauss recalls pioneer incidents, by Matie L. Baily, in the *Fonda Times*, November 13, 1941.

Was "Iowa Rodeo" idea born at New Hampton, in the *Elliott Graphic*, November 13, 1941.

Iowans receive preliminary naval training at Great Lakes recruiting station, by Louis Cook, Jr., in the *Des Moines Register*, November 16, 1941.

The old home and Bible of John King of Dubuque, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, November 16, 1941.

Death of Mrs. Emaline Perkins, 104, sister of Governor William Larrabee, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 17, 1941.

Map showing westward movement of Iowa's cattle range, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, November 18, 1941.

Death of Barnabas F. Philbrook, prominent dentist, in the *Denison Review*, November 20, 1941.

Sketch of Herbert Hoover in the radio "American Biographies" series, by J. A. Nelson, in the *Decorah Journal*, November 20, 1941.

Early history of Mapleton, by W. H. Chrisman, in the *Mapleton Press*, November 20, 1941.

Cornell College honors six founders and builders, in the *Mt. Vernon Record*, November 20, 1941.

Life at training school for boys at Eldora, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 23, 1941.

Rare stained glass in St. Ambrose Cathedral at Des Moines, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 23, 1941.

Cedar Rapids hailed as thriving center of industry, agriculture, and education, by Art Snider, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, November 23, 1941.

Sketch of the life of John A. Gunn, businessman, in the *Newton News*, November 24, 1941.

Death of Judge Edmund E. Nichols, in the *Adel News*, November 26, 1941.

First edition of the Book of Mormon discovered in Des Moines, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, November 28, 1941.

Death of Joseph J. Back, brother of Germany's Field Marshal von Bock, at Dubuque, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 30, 1941.

Families of Iowa ordnance plant at Burlington form Harlan Club at Mt. Pleasant, by George Shane, in the *Des Moines Register*, November 30, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Marcus G. Nichols, of Traer, in the *Waterloo Courier*, December 1, 1941.

The "home town" (Lucas, Iowa) remembers John L. Lewis, by George Coleman, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 1, 1941.

Early pioneer life in Iowa, by Mary Ellen Severson, in the *Allamakee Journal* (Lansing), December 3, 1941.

Some family history of Homer C. Dixon, Jr., in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, December 7, 1941.

Death of Frank J. Swanson, former member of the State legislature, in the *Sioux City Journal*, December 7, 1941.

Story of Robert Hernried, music professor at St. Ambrose College, from Vienna, in the *Davenport Democrat*, December 7, 1941.

Sketch of the life of Frank J. Swanson, former State Representative for Plymouth County, in the *Le Mars Sentinel*, December 9, 1941.

E. A. Mayne, pioneer Sanborn merchant, has extensive coin collection, in the *Sheldon Sun*, December 10, 1941.

J. C. "Chunk" Williams was colorful character of north Iowa, in the *Northwood Anchor*, December 11, 1941.

Some early towns of Appanoose County, by Tom C. Merritt, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, December 11, 1941.

Memorial fountains at Fort Dodge honoring John F. Duncombe and William S. Kenyon, presented by Mrs. Mary Duncombe Kenyon, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, December 13, 1941.

Life story of Antoine LeClaire, by Charles E. Snyder, in the *Davenport Democrat*, December 14, 1941.

Career of W. B. Quarton, lawyer and district judge, was also active agriculturist, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 15, and the *Algona Advance*, December 16, 1941.

Iowa owes something to the beaver, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, December 16, 1941.

Some pioneer notes of Warren County, in the *Indianola Herald*, December 18, 1941.

"True Tallcorn Tales" series, in the *Greenfield Free Press*, December 18, and the *Mediapolis New Era News*, December 19, 1941.

Carter Lake, Iowa, west of Missouri River, turns to industry, in the *Des Moines Register*, December 21, 1941.

George L. Trease was resident of Lynnvile, Jasper County, for ninety-four years, in the *Newton News*, December 22, 1941.

A Christmas program in the schoolhouse in 1880, by Matie L. Baily, in the *Pocahontas Record*, December 24, 1941.

Christmas of 1855 in Boone County, by C. L. Lucas, in the *Ogden Reporter*, December 25, 1941.

Story of B. Anundsen, newspaperman of Decorah, in the *Decorah Journal*, December 25, 1941.

Death of Judge Daniel E. Maguire, in the *Dubuque Tribune* and the *Des Moines Register*, December 26, 1941.

Tribute to John F. Duncombe, by George E. Roberts, in the *Fort Dodge Messenger*, December 27, 1941.

Organization and activities of the Coalport Guards, in Jefferson County, by M. Coverdell, in the *Fairfield Ledger*, December 30, 1941.

Graves of Revolutionary War veterans, in the "True Tallcorn Tales" series, in the *Elliott Graphic*, January 1, and the *Mediapolis New Era News*, January 9, 1942.

Death of Mrs. Martha Jenkins, 101, who came to Iowa in 1866, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, January 1, 1942.

Death of Mrs. T. E. Sprague, widow of Civil War veteran, in the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, January 1, 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Neal of Keota celebrate sixty-first wedding anniversary, in the *Davenport Democrat*, January 2, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Henry Thuenen, attorney, prominent in city and State politics, in the *Davenport Democrat*, January 6, 1942.

Picture of first family and first house in Jasper County, in the *Newton News*, January 7, 1942.

Recollections of early days in Buchanan, as told by R. J. Hekel, in the *Independence Conservative*, January 7, 1942.

Biographical data on Frank Hadsell, once of Traer, in the *Humboldt Republican*, January 9, 1942.

Stick-pulling contests and wrestling were early sports in Traer and Humboldt, in the *Humboldt Republican*, January 9, 1942.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Louisiana Historical Society discussed "Accounts of Early Louisiana Travel" at its monthly meeting held on January 27, 1942.

Students of the University of Wisconsin have formed a University Historical Society which will coöperate with the State Historical Society in research, museum arrangement, radio broadcasts, art displays, and publicity.

The Missouri Historical Society has published in pamphlet form an address on Charles Nagel, by Charles P. Williams. It was delivered at a meeting of the Society at St. Louis on May 23, 1941. Mr. Nagel had been a member of the Missouri Historical Society since 1894, and served as president from 1937 until his death on January 5, 1940.

The Chicago Historical Society has begun the publication of a *News Review*. The first number, issued in November, 1941, contained an account of Lincoln Dioramas, a University of Chicago exhibit, and various historical society notes. Volume I, No. 2, is devoted largely to war activities, including a discussion of the protection of relics in war time.

The eighty-ninth annual meeting of the Wisconsin Historical Society was held at Madison on October 16, 1941. The meeting included a conference on problems of local historical societies. Curators were elected for the term ending in 1944. The Society has begun the publication of a monthly press sheet for newspapers entitled *Wisconsin Historical News*. The first number appeared in January, 1942.

A subscription dinner held at Madison on January 30, 1942, commemorated the founding of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1849. President William A. Titus of Fond du Lac presided and Chief Justice Marvin B. Rosenberry was toastmaster and spoke on "Wisconsin Becomes a State". Susan B. Davis talked on

“Everyday Life in Wisconsin in 1849” and Father Peter Leo Johnson told of “The Founding of Wisconsin’s Historical Society”. Later the group visited the exhibition of “Pioneer Life in Wisconsin” in the Society’s rooms.

IOWA

Fifty Years Pass In Review, the story of St. Olaf Lutheran Church at Fort Dodge, Iowa, has been published in pamphlet form by the church. The program celebrating the semi-centennial was held on September 21, 1941.

Judge W. L. Eichendorf of McGregor has presented to the McGregor Museum a bound volume of the *Clayton County Herald* for 1856-1857. Another contribution was a book of photographs of McGregor, presented by J. A. Ramage. An attempt is being made to have the relics of the Ringling family deposited in this Museum.

The Sac County Historical Society was organized at a meeting at Sac City, on February 21, 1942, with the following officers: Malcolm Currie of Sac City, president; W. M. Dean of Lake View, vice president; Mrs. H. R. Elrod of Sac City, secretary; and Samuel Hahne of Schaller, treasurer.

The Mahaska County Historical Society took out articles of incorporation on January 3, 1942. The officers are: John C. Bradbury, president; O. H. Jones, vice president; Mrs. Sara G. Kalbach, secretary; and E. L. Butler, treasurer. Plans were made to use the basement of the Oskaloosa Public Library as a museum to store relics and documents.

The Guthrie County Historical Society held its second meeting at Panora on January 15, 1942. An exhibit of antiques was part of the program. A program was drafted, including the making of relief maps showing county and town sites, tracing stage coach and Mormon trails through the county, marking historic sites, and collecting pioneer anecdotes.

The Hamilton County Historical Society held a meeting at Webster City on January 23, 1942. Miss Bessie Lyon, the presi-

dent of the society, presided. J. W. Lee read a paper giving an account of the life of his uncle, John Wesley Lee, a pioneer school-teacher and county supervisor. Mrs. J. F. Harvey read two articles, one by herself on the Mulberry Center Community, and one by Miss Hattie Barkhuff on Ellsworth Township.

The Buchanan County Historical Society held its first monthly meeting of 1942 at Independence on January second, with Dr. J. A. Swisher as the speaker. The February meeting was held on the sixth. It was decided to purchase four show cases to hold relics. It was announced that at the meeting to be held on March sixth Roy A. Cook would tell of the days when C. W. Williams ran his famous racehorses on the track at Independence.

Charles L. Horn of Minneapolis, formerly of Ida Grove, is sponsoring a history-writing contest in Ida County. The contest ends on April 1, 1942. The writer of the paper awarded first place will receive \$75, the second prize will be \$50, and third prize \$25. The three prize-winning papers will be bound and presented to the Ida Grove Public Library. All others become the property of Mr. Horn. The judges are Mrs. Ben H. Todd, W. A. Beaver, and Lee A. Horn.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

A copy of the *Burgess Genealogy*, by Dr. Barry Hovey Burgess, has been deposited in the Library of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has begun the collection of clippings from Iowa newspapers on various phases of the Second World War. By the close of March there were more than twenty-five thousand clippings in the file.

Dr. Jacob A. Swisher, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave an address at Independence on January 2, 1942, before the Buchanan County Historical Society on the subject, "The Romance of Local History". On January 28th he presented his illustrated lecture on "Iowa Historical and Beautiful" at Washington before the Bankers Association of Washington

and Louisa counties and presented the same lecture at Des Moines on February 3rd before the Service Men's Club.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has distributed copies of N. R. Whitney's *The Sale of War Bonds in Iowa* to all county chairmen in charge of the sale of defense bonds and stamps during the present World War. *The Sale of War Bonds* covers the activities along this line during the first World War and was published by the Historical Society in 1923 in the *Iowa Chronicles of the World War Series*. Other volumes in this series were *Welfare Campaigns in Iowa* and *Welfare Work in Iowa*, both by Marcus L. Hansen, *The Red Cross in Iowa*, in two volumes, by Earl S. Fullbrook, and *The Food Administration in Iowa*, in two volumes, by Ivan L. Pollock.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Dr. Carroll O. Adams, Mason City, Iowa; Mr. Samuel Grier, Jr., Balboa Heights, Canal Zone; Mr. L. L. Hunter, Shenandoah, Iowa; Mrs. Dorothy B. Lage, Bettendorf, Iowa; Mrs. W. L. Lamb, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Herbert F. Stevenson, San Mateo, Calif.; Mr. Bruce A. West, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Wm. Franklin Wood, Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Maude M. Friman, Corning, Iowa; Mr. K. M. Krezek, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. D. S. Lewis, Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. F. T. Schwob, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. S. E. Clapp, Columbus, Ohio; Mr. Fred J. Glueck, Davenport, Iowa; and Mr. B. F. Thomas, Traer, Iowa.

NOTES AND COMMENT

The Des Moines Pioneer Club held its annual meeting at Des Moines on January 24, 1942. William M. McLaughlin discussed President U. S. Grant's speech at Des Moines on September 28, 1875. B. Frank Kauffman was elected president of the club, Vernon Seeburger vice president, and Forest Huttenlocher secretary-treasurer.

The Reverend Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon, one of the influential advocates of equal suffrage and a minister of the Unitarian Church in Iowa, serving at Sioux City, Iowa City, Des Moines, and Burlington, died in the family home in Hancock, Illinois, on January 6, 1942. She was born on the same homestead on October 1, 1852. She was ordained as a minister at Sioux City on May 8, 1889.

The Fairfield Public Library is one of the 1200 libraries in the United States chosen by the American Library Association for a demonstration of printed material for war information centers. New books on war topics and home defense were put on display. The collection included the February issue of *The Palimpsest* containing an article *Remember Pearl Harbor*, by William J. Petersen.

Levi O. Leonard, railroad surveyor and historian, died at Iowa City on March 16, 1942. Mr. Leonard was born in Des Moines County, near Burlington, in 1854, but spent his early years in Iowa City, where his father, Nathan R. Leonard, was one of the early Professors and Acting President of the State University.

In 1879 Mr. Leonard became a railroad surveyor with residence in Montana. He later became interested in newspaper work, being associated with the Anaconda, Montana, *Review*, and the Butte *Mining and Railroad Review*. Since 1918 Mr. Leonard has devoted much of his time to the history of the Union Pacific and Rock Island railroads. In 1939 he was co-author of *A Railroad to the Sea*, the story of the Union Pacific.

Grant Wood, noted artist, died at Iowa City, on February 12, 1942. Born at Anamosa, Iowa, on February 13, 1892, he spent most of his life in Iowa, notably in and around Cedar Rapids, although he at times lived elsewhere and traveled in Europe to further his education in art. His lecture engagements took him to many parts of the United States. His association with the State University of Iowa began in 1934, and he held the title of Professor of Fine Arts at the time of his death. He was named State Director of the Public Works of Art projects in 1934, with his headquarters at Iowa City. For his influence in furthering creative art in American education, he was awarded honorary degrees by the University of Wisconsin, Wesleyan University, Lawrence College, and Northwestern University. Iowa was not only his home, but the chief inspiration of his work. His emphasis on artistic representation of subject matter derived from his native environment stimulated a movement among artists to interpret the indigenous scene. Among his most famous paintings, now in the possession of art collectors throughout the country, are "American Gothic", "Woman With Plants", "Dinner for Threshers", "Parson Weems' Fable", "Daughters of Revolution", "Young Corn", "Spring in Town", and "Spring in the Country".

CONTRIBUTORS

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN, Research Associate of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Author of *Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi, Iowa — The Rivers of Her Valleys*, and numerous articles in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, *The Palimpsest*, and other historical journals. (See also THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, January, 1930, p. 173.)

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THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS
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LAIRDS OF NORTH TAMA

A man living up by the "Ridge Road" in Tama County, Iowa, sent money back to Scotland in the sixties to pay the passage of a younger sister. It was only a few months until this blooming Scotch lassie was married. "Tell my friends", she wrote home to an aunt, "that I'm a laird's wife, noo."

It was not stretching the imagination of a new arrival to think of these farmers in the Wolf Creek valley as "lairds". The older men who came in the fifties and sixties went by the names of their homes in Scotland; in Tranquillity¹ there were farms called "Kilpatrick", "Renton", "Craigbrae", "Pinmore", "Drumgrier", "Dangart", "Boghead", and similar names.

These "lairds" of North Tama were neither crude nor sordid; in Scotland they had been farmers and the sons of farmers — men of position, who had plenty of servants, men for the fields, and girls for the kitchen and byre (dairy barn). These came from the several peasant families living on each farm; but no matter how many servants they had, the mistress always superintended the making of the butter and cheese. Her reputation and much of the family living depended upon the quality of these dairy products. These Scotch farmers had leisure for many of the refinements of life. One of the women who came to Iowa recalled that when she was a little girl in Scotland, her father and mother had tea together in their living room every afternoon.

¹ Life in the Scotch community in north Tama County centered around the Presbyterian Church known as Tranquillity and the community was also called Tranquillity. For an account of activities at the church see the articles in *The Palimpsest* for December, 1936.

The pioneer men and women of Tranquillity had been reared in an older, more leisurely, and more cultured way of life than that to which their Iowa descendants became accustomed. The following incidents contrast the two ways of living. In the winter of 1911, one of the daughters² of a Scotch family in Tama County was in Scotland with her husband, a minister attending lectures in the University of Glasgow. The couple spent the holidays at Pleasantfield, a farm near Ayr, visiting a cousin and his family, and the Iowa woman described the following incident.

At breakfast one morning, she said, while discussing the plans for the day, it was arranged that we were all to go over to Ayr as my cousin had a cow for the market. We supposed he would go in on foot leading his cow and we would bring him home; so when the time came for starting we looked for the cow. No cow was to be seen. Our cousin appeared all dressed up and rode with us in the gig. Arriving in Ayr, he took my husband off to the market. The plowman was there with the cow, having started hours before to lead her in. The Scotch farmer negotiated the sale but never touched the cow.

After returning from abroad, continued this Iowa woman, we were visiting at father's.³ We were awakened one morning early by a commotion out in the street. A neighbor, who had then retired from the farm and was a well-to-do businessman with farms and town holdings, president of a bank, and a county supervisor, was driving two pigs he had fattened at his house in town, down to market. He had only his eight-year-old boy to help. Although he could have bought my Scotch cousin out ten times over, it never occurred to this man that driving his pigs to market was beneath his dignity.

² This was Jane Stevenson who married the Reverend Howard W. Johnston.

³ William Stevenson was then living in Traer, having retired from the farm.

The older generation came to Iowa for the sake of their large families. It was only the eldest son who could "heir the tack" in Scotland; younger children had no chance. Besides the money to make first payments on their farms, these Scotch families brought with them their mahogany tables, gold watches and long beautifully wrought chains, brass candlesticks, sets of rare china, chests of linen and silver, black silk gowns, and exquisite Paisley shawls. Look through the old albums; note the dignity of carriage, the fine quality of the clothes and their good style, and the general air of elegance and well-being.

The privations and sacrifices of this Iowa life were hard to endure, especially for the older generation. Most of these men were past the age for hard work, even those in middle life had lived in a more leisurely atmosphere and were not used to such driving toil. They said of one man, "It didn't matter so much his working after he got the boys all out to the field."

The first generation always had time for "a crack wi' their friends" or an argument about foreordination. Although these Scotch farmers sacrificed their old-world comfort and friends to come to Iowa in order that their children might have the opportunities of this new land, the children had to work for these opportunities and work unceasingly. They were the men and women who with grinding toil subdued the prairies. No generation of men in Iowa will ever again win for themselves such holdings, but no generation will ever again work so hard. "He desna' work a' nicht", said "Uncle Mac" (Gilbert McMillan) of a neighbor, "when he gets through wi' his chores at twelve o'clock, he just leans up against a tree, takes a wee nap, an' then goes on again."

Most of these younger men made money so that they bought one eighty after another, moving in the little houses

of the first settlers for granaries, tool shops, and woodsheds. Big barns were built and houses so large that some of the rooms were never furnished. Things were done on a big scale.

Many of these Scotch settlers came from the same locality or from nearby places and were often related. How closely knit these Scotch immigrants were may be seen from the Wilson clan. Of the eleven children of James and Jane Lusk Wilson of Pinmore, Ayrshire, Scotland, eight came to Iowa, three remaining in Scotland. Three brothers — John, West, and Andrew — were among the Scotch who finally established themselves in Tama County. Four sisters were in the same group — Margaret (Mrs. Gilbert McDowall), Janet (Mrs. John Galt), Sarah (Mrs. Gilbert McMillan), and Christine (Mrs. Andrew Dodd). A fifth sister, Grace, (Mrs. Allen Wilson), lived in Cedar Rapids.

But the relationship was more widespread than this. John Wilson's first wife was Jean McCosh.⁴ One of her brothers, Andrew, lived in Tama County; another, David McCosh, in Scott County. Mrs. Andrew McCosh was a sister of George (Geordie) Sloss.⁵ In Scotland Jean Wilson was the wife of Thomas Sloss. Other families were almost equally connected.

The members of the Wilson clan were intelligent, industrious, shrewd, deeply religious, and honest. They had a strong family feeling and their busy lives were lightened by a keen sense of humor. Among those of the first generation, perhaps the most striking character was West Wilson.

THE SQUIRE

West Wilson was known as the Squire to everyone in

⁴ James McCosh, a cousin of Jean McCosh Wilson, was President of Princeton from 1868 to 1888. John Wilson later married Jane Cope.

⁵ Jean Wilson, one of the Wilson sisters who remained in Scotland, was married to Thomas Sloss. A daughter, Lizzie, married James Taylor in Iowa.

Tama County, a title which he acquired by reason of his personality rather than by office. It is true that he served for years as justice of the peace, but other men have filled the office without acquiring this dignified appellation. West Wilson looked and acted the part, satisfied all our ideas of a squire, and so the name clung to him. His grand manner was perfectly natural, full of pride, dignity, and courtesy. He was big, well proportioned, with regular features and dark eyes. In later years his shapely head was bald, his beard white, his upper lip shaven. A stranger would have picked him out at once as the handsomest man in the church. His home with its stately pines and strutting peacocks made an appropriate setting for this Iowa squire.

The emigration of the Scotch "lairds" into north Tama County was largely due to the vision and initiative of West Wilson. He was the pioneer of the Wilson clan, the first to cross the Atlantic, embarking for Connecticut in May, 1846, with his young wife and six-weeks-old baby. They were eight weeks in the steerage of a sailing vessel.

In five years, John Wilson followed his brother to Norwich, Connecticut. Here West Wilson's commodious home was a haven for all the relatives and acquaintances from Scotland. It was divided so two families could live comfortably and with a certain degree of privacy until they found places of their own. Often the travellers came from shipboard with sickness in the family — measles, scarlet fever, and the like; in befriending them in their extremity, West and his wife⁶ risked the lives of their own brood.

West Wilson operated a sawmill and was soon well established on a rented farm. He raised vegetables extensively and carried on a dairy business. Returning one day

⁶ West Wilson was married three times. This wife, whom he had married in 1845, was Margaret Drynan before her marriage. His second wife was Barbara Kennedy whom he married in 1863, and his third choice was Margaret McDonald whom he married in 1895.

from Greenville where he peddled milk, he met James Wilson, then a half-grown boy, eldest son of his brother John. The lad was trudging along the dusty road with all his worldly possessions tied in a handkerchief. West stopped his team and inquired of this favorite nephew, "Whaur are ye for, Jim?"

"Oh, I'm off to find work. They don't need me at home", the lad replied.

"Have ye heard o' any place?"

"No, but I'll find something."

"Then get in wi' me. I'll gie ye a job in the sawmill till ye find something else." So James worked in his uncle's mill until he came with his family to Iowa where he found work in Klingaman's sawmill on the site of Traer.

But West Wilson wanted a farm of his own where land was cheap. He often talked about these new lands with his friend, John Connell, who lived in Norwich. The Connells were weavers, associated with William A. Buckingham (later Governor of Connecticut) in his ingrain carpet mills. Not being able to make a choice between the Waldon Ridge in Tennessee and the prairies of Iowa, the two men decided that Wilson was to go to Tennessee and Connell to Iowa, agreeing to communicate with each other the results of their explorations.

While crossing the Mississippi on the ferry at Dubuque, Connell fell in with Jonas Wood, later an outstanding man in north Tama County. According to the Tama County historian, Daniel Connell, Wood had an acquaintance with a doctor practicing at Vinton, Iowa. When they arrived at this "embryo city with only four cabins to house her citizens", the doctor, instead of taking these land-seekers in with open arms as was usual, informed them there was no vacant land in the vicinity of Vinton and suggested they go on to Big Creek (later known as Wolf Creek).

After the men had started, the doctor remarked to a friend, "I've just got rid of a nest of Whigs." It seems that the doctor, a Democrat, had come west with political aspirations. Vinton must not be settled by Whigs. Thus it was that Benton County lost the Scotch settlement that contributed so much to the upbuilding of north Tama County.

John Connell was so well pleased with the Wolf Creek region that he entered land without waiting to hear from West Wilson regarding his Tennessee trip. But Wilson found the land in Tennessee unattractive and returned to his home in Connecticut.

After reading Connell's letters with their glowing accounts of Iowa, West Wilson set out for Wolf Creek in 1854, accompanied by his brother, John Wilson, and by George Sloss. According to West Wilson's son, Henry, they started out from Marengo, Iowa, on foot following a winding wagon trail. West Wilson had a compass and wanted to go straight across. John Wilson was determined to hold to the beaten path. Sloss who had the deciding vote was something of a politician; he reasoned that John Wilson, being the older, should be the wiser of the two. For several hours they travelled on different paths but met again during the day.

Before night, they came to a few houses on the prairie; at one they applied for lodging. The woman of the house said she could not keep them as she was alone, but finally consented when a neighbor woman agreed to stay with her. She baked a johnny cake for supper and later churned a little batch of butter. It was white but tasted good on the johnny cake at breakfast. The woman told them about cooking dinner not long before for Stephen Klingaman,⁷ a smart

⁷ Stephen Klingaman was of German descent and came to Tama County with more than the usual amount of money. He was a successful businessman and one of the outstanding men of the community until he became involved in

businesslike man from Ohio who was also going on to Wolf Creek to look at land. Arriving at Buckingham, they put up with the John Connells the first night.

John and West Wilson and George Sloss soon decided that they too would come to Iowa and returned to Connecticut for their families. The arrival of the family of John Wilson in Tama County was typical of the coming of these Scotch families.

Daniel Connell was standing in the east door of his father's cabin in Buckingham late one November afternoon in 1855. It was snowing. Through the flakes and gathering gloom, he could discern a line of objects passing the saw-mill, where Stephen Klingaman had established himself in July, and crossing the bridge over Wolf Creek. This procession was the John Wilson family on its way to Iowa.

Heading the caravan and driving two yoke of oxen was the eldest son, James, the future "Tama Jim". In like occupation followed Peter;⁸ then came the father and a younger son, each driving a team of horses; mixed in the various loads were the mother, the younger children, and the household effects. In a few years the couple had two more children, fourteen in all.

They drove to Gilbert McMillan's, whose wife, Sarah, was a sister of the Wilson brothers. The large McMillan family lived in a cabin twelve feet square; to stow in a dozen or so more must have taxed the hostess's ability to manage. But John Wilson soon got his cabin built and was ready, a few months later, to take in West Wilson and his family. For the next ten years, there was a succession of families more or less related to the Wilsons. It was like a Scotch clan coming into north Tama County.

the lynching of the Bunker brothers. Following this incident Klingaman disappeared leaving his family and property behind.

⁸ This was the Peter Wilson who wrote the Civil War letters printed in this and other numbers of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS.

The early settlers, indeed, all took their turn at entertaining newcomers. Several years after this, West Wilson was on the roof shingling his new house when he saw his brother-in-law's family, the Andrew Dodd's,⁹ coming. He got down quickly and went to welcome them. West Wilson, Gilbert McMillan, John Wilson, and Gilbert McDowall each gave Dodd a cow so that he had four to commence farming with in the spring.

West Wilson entered a section of land in Crystal Township, just beyond where the church now stands, some four miles southwest of the village platted by John Connell and named Buckingham for his friend, William Alfred Buckingham, manufacturer, philanthropist, and distinguished war Governor of Connecticut.

The Squire, as West Wilson came to be called, was more than a farmer; he was a man of affairs in the county. After the railroad came through north Tama County, he left the direct management of his farm to his boys and hired men, built elevators in Traer and two other small towns, and embarked in the grain and commission business, being one of the first businessmen in Traer. Here he was always to be found in the dusty office of his elevator buying grain or telling his inimitable stories.

Squire Wilson was successful in his grain business and was quite well-to-do until he began buying and selling on the Board of Trade. In his old age, he lost his big farmstead with the strutting peacocks, the stately pines, the white house with the scroll work in the gables, the picket fence indented in front to make room for the hitching post which seemed to invite the passerby to tie up his team and go in for a chat. But the Squire was able to hold his Wolf Creek bottom land and build a little house near the bridge where he lived with his third wife, the lovely lady he mar-

⁹ Andrew Dodd had married Christine Wilson.

ried in Chicago.¹⁰ His three wives now lie beside him in Crystal cemetery. The Squire continued to run his elevator and his farm until he was almost eighty.

He had that wonderful quality of good cheer and optimism which bolstered him up through sorrows and hardships and made him, in spite of all shortcomings, so popular in all circles and his company so much sought after.

I remember one day when I was a student in Coe College, the president summoned the Squire's granddaughter, Westina Whannell, also in Coe, to his office to see her grandfather who was on his way home from Chicago. She took me with her. We went with fear and trembling. Perhaps not more than once or twice during a college course was the law-abiding student invited into the president's office, but here was the Squire sitting at ease, chatting about the latest doings in the wheat pit. No one ever saw him when he was not at home in any company. He had on a dark blue suit — it seems to me he always wore dark blue suits — and he looked very distinguished. The over-burdened college president forgot his troubles and laughed at the Squire's stories.

Although considered an ultra liberal in religion by his more orthodox relatives, the Squire was a man of peace in the church, never altercating, meddling, or holding an office. Despising hypocrisy and superstition, his religion was not manifested in forms and ceremonies.

Soon after the death of the Squire's first wife a neighbor told of being in Daniel Connell's store in Buckingham one cold December day when a little boy from a mover's camp came in crying with cold.

"Whaur are yer boots?", the Squire inquired.

"Oh, they're worn out an' father hasn't money to buy new ones."

¹⁰ This was Margaret McDonald.

“Here, Dan!” called the Squire to Connell who was in the back of the store filling a three gallon jug with sorghum, “Let’s see if ye hae onything that will fit this wee man.”

“Think o’ the Squire paying for a waif’s boots”, exclaimed the neighbor, “when he has nine motherless bairns at hame, an’ they’re all under thirteen.”

“Did ye hear that Mistress Galt¹¹ has the baby noo?”

“Ay, the Squire’ll ken it’ll no be neglekit by his sister.”

In later years, Daniel Connell wrote in his Tama County history: “West Wilson had a large heart; his right hand in ignorance of the activities of his left. In the days of his prosperity, the writer was the dispenser for Mr. Wilson of hundreds of dollars worth of goods to the worthy poor.”

Through his scientific study and research, the Squire early became interested in the breeding of pure-blooded cattle.¹² In September, 1871, the Squire went to the State Fair at Cedar Rapids and bought “President”, the first pedigreed shorthorn brought into Tama County, at least the first recorded in the herd book. “President” was a four-months-old bull calf weighing 400 pounds, red with a spot on one shoulder, another on the opposite flank. There was nothing fancy about his pedigree, for at that time the Bates, Booths, and Cruikshanks had not been heard of in Tama County.

The Squire’s son, thirteen-year-old Henry, had charge of this animal. He was a proud boy. He fed and groomed “President” for the county fair the next fall, weighing him at Toledo, the first scales available. The animal weighed 990 pounds after that fifteen-mile walk. “President” won second place. As usual Andrew McCosh was one of the judges. Two years later the Squire bought four cows and

¹¹ This was Janet Wilson Galt, an older sister of the Squire.

¹² These Scotch settlers were all interested in cattle raising. Some, like West Wilson, turned their attention to breeding cattle. Others were more interested in feeding cattle for beef.

heifers in Illinois and started his pedigreed herd of short-horns.

The Squire was also a great reader. His library contained volumes on the various sciences including astronomy and evolution, on philosophy, religion, atheism, and complete sets of novels by Scott, Dickens, and others. He was always interested in invention. His clear thinking granddaughter, Westina, relates that he would talk about the possibility of people flying through the air not in his day but in ours. He thought a great deal about the construction of a flying machine, much to the disgust of practical, hard-working sons-in-law who thought he was wasting his time at "foolish nonsense". He had in mind a picture of a machine to dig ditches. A machine digging ditches for water mains in Traer, about 1910, conformed very closely to the Squire's model.

The first melodeon in the Scotch settlement was bought by Squire Wilson in Buckingham about 1870 for his daughter Agnes, and he engaged a sister of Daniel Connell to give her ten lessons for \$10.00. For her lessons Aggie, as she was called, usually walked the five miles into Buckingham.

Perhaps the old Squire lived in too early a day to follow the lead of his ambition and dreams but something of his genius for research, invention, and promotion was brought to a fruition in his nephew, West Dodd, in his son, Dalton, in his grandson, William Galloway;¹³ something of his love for science and philosophy in his son, John, who practiced medicine in California; but most of all were his highest visions realized in his nephew, James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture under three Presidents.

The Secretary seldom came home without visiting the Squire. They were kindred spirits. It is hard to say which

¹³ William Galloway was the son of John and Agnes Wilson Galloway.

received the greater enjoyment from these visits, James Wilson absorbed in nation-wide agricultural projects or his visionary uncle whose keen mind was always figuring out new things.

In the light of modern scientific research, discovery and invention, we can understand the Squire better. Blundering sometimes, carrying heavy burdens, stumbling over unseen obstacles, the Squire in his own way always carried a torch of progress. It might be but a flickering flame, still with his kindly heart and word of cheer he helped to light the way not only for his own clan but for the whole community.

UNCLE MAC OF FOUR MILE GROVE¹⁴

Another unforgettable character among the Scotch settlers was Gilbert McMillan who had married Sarah Wilson. Many were the stories told of the humor, drollery, and understanding of "Uncle Mac" as he was called by most of the second generation.

One night Uncle Mac's horses got loose and went over to a neighboring farm. In the morning, the son brought them home. He had grown up in the hills and had the reputation of being a rough fellow. This morning he was in a towering rage and had made up his mind to give McMillan a terrible raking. Uncle Mac saw the broad-shouldered, dour-faced youth coming and went out to meet him; when within hailing distance he shouted, "Come awa! Come awa! I like ye, man, and ay did. I'll kill a sheep an' gie ye the half o't." The young man said to his father afterward, "I couldna' say a word."

The McMillan boys had just gone to the harvest field one morning and Uncle Mac was sharpening a sickle with wee Peter turning the grindstone. The lad liked to watch the

¹⁴ Four Mile Grove was west of the present site of Traer, between Four Mile Creek and Wolf Creek.

water dripping regularly on to the sickle from the hole in the can fastened above the stone. Peter thought it quite an invention. Just then an old man living on a near-by hill came up with a sack wanting to borrow flour. He liked to live off other people. Uncle Mac said, "Gang awa in and ask Sarah."

But Aunt Sarah said, "We're kind o' low on flour. Maybe faither'll no want to gang to mill bein' in the midst o' harvest." With kindly solicitude on her round, comely face she added, "I've some middlings. I'll let ye hae some — they're real nice an' clean." Affronted, the man went away in high dudgeon. Aunt Sarah said to her husband, "I feel bad no to hae let the man hae the flour."

Uncle Mac went on to the end of his sickle, grinding every knife, then he straightened up and said, "Just gie him another day or twa and he'll be back for the middlin's." He was back the next day.

Gilbert McMillan was always joking, playing tricks on people. But one was played on him that people relish telling about even to this day. Being a good judge of stock, Uncle Mac was an expert in a trade. One winter he had a lot of hogs but no corn. His neighbor, the singing-school teacher, had a lot of corn but no hogs. He persuaded McMillan to let him have some shotes to feed on shares, fifty-fifty. The singing-school teacher drove the pigs home. Instead of keeping them until full grown and fat, he butchered one the next morning and, splitting it from the nose to the tip of its tail, brought one-half back to McMillan.

Everyone liked Uncle Mac. He met them with his optimism and good cheer, helped them over the hard places with his jokes and nonsense. He refused to see the hardships. No man had a kinder heart. "Lang may yer lum (chimney) reek!" he shouted to a man passing the grove. "It'll no reek lang", said the man. "I'm clean discouraged.

I lost that bay mare I just bought.” “Hoots! Come awa, man! Come awa in an’ we’ll hae a guid crack (talk) by the fire.” Another hour and the man was on his way with a new courage and plans for getting another horse.

“Ah, woman”, McMillan said with a twinkle when he met a girl, just over, the first Sunday in church, “this is an awful country. The woods are full of wolves. Ye mauna gang oot after dark. Ye can do na courtin’.”

They tell the story of how he left two boys, newly arrived from Scotland, down in a hollow holding a bag for snipes to run into. Uncle Mac and his friends were supposed to be rounding up the snipes. After awhile one of the youths became suspicious and said to the other, “Here, just haud the sack while I go an’ see if they’re comin’”. He went to the house where Uncle Mac was regaling the crowd with stories. The unsuspecting boy kept on holding the sack until he too realized that he was the victim of a joke.

But Gilbert McMillan was more than a prankster; his home was a social center to which all people went out of their way for a word with him, to have, as it were, their lives cheered up. One story illustrates this characteristic. A farmer living to the south had lost his wife. Being in sore trouble with the care of his little boy, the rush of harvest, threshing ahead, and no housekeeper, he came up to Uncle Mac’s for some good cheer and advice.

McMillan looked quizzically at the eccentric man with his bearded face, cross eyes, and rough clothes; stroked his little chin whisker thoughtfully; walked back and forth several times, his hands clasped one in the other behind his back as was his wont. Then he stopped suddenly. “I ken a widow who would be just fine for ye. I’ll tak’ ye to see her.”

“Yer a good friend, Mac. When will we go?”

“Right now.”

“Oh, but I should go home an’ dress up.”

“No, there’s fortune in the present”, declared Uncle Mac who always acted on the impulse of the moment, never waiting to prepare for anything. He hitched a mule and a horse to the wagon, the hayrack still on it. His two hounds climbed in. He and the farmer drove off just as they were.

When they reached the widow’s house, she was washing outside under the trees. She wiped the suds off her arms and shook hands with Uncle Mac; then he presented the lonesome widower, “This man has been, like yersel’, unfortunate in losing his life partner. I’ve brought him over and introduced him and now ye can just talk the matter over between yersels. I’m goin’ over to Youngs for dinner.” He and Samuel Young were old friends.

Grandfather Young lived two miles north of the widow. The McMillans and Youngs had lived on neighboring farms in Scotland. When they were all gathered about the table, Uncle Mac told the story. “The widow was washing when we drove up. I told her the farmer wanted a wife, an’ man! ye should hae seen the sapples [suds] flee. Ay, they’ll mak’ a match sure for he is after a worker.”

Robert Young told of the Congregational circuit rider who lived at West Union.¹⁵ He came from down along the river, I think it was Clinton. This good man had digestive troubles which nothing had helped so much as the dandelion bitters made by his wife. But his supply ran out. Not being able to find any dandelions around West Union, she sent back to Clinton for plants. She hired the son of a neighboring parishioner, eleven-year-old George Stoakes,¹⁶ to plant and hoe the dandelions. Being an industrious lad, he tended them carefully. The next spring there was a

¹⁵ This West Union was a small center a short distance east of Traer.

¹⁶ A son of this George Stoakes later married Westina Whannell, the Squire’s granddaughter.

goodly number of dandelions across the road in the William Sprole pasture. The next spring there were still more and we have had plenty of dandelions ever since. The men roared with laughter.

As Uncle Mac stirred his tea to dissolve the brown sugar in the bottom of the cup he turned to Robert and added, "I hae a' good story for ye, Bob. Last summer, two calves belonging to a neighbor kept botherin' and botherin'. I sent them hame but they came back. One day the auld man on the knowe who borrows and disna like to work very weel, came down. I said, 'I'll gie ye thae calves, man, if ye'll tak' them hame'. He thocht it must be a joke but to get it back on me said, 'All right, I'll just tak' them wi' me.' To his surprise I let him drive them off. It was an awful hot day. The calves ran every way. The auld man was near hame, clean tuckered out, sweatin' and wi' his hat off when he met my neighbor who shouted, 'Where are ye goin' wi' my calves?' 'Why, Mac gave these calves to me', the auld man rasped out in his high voice. 'Weel, they were no his ta give,' said my angry neighbor, 'I'll just tak' thae calves back wi' me.'

"It was on in the winter that the auld man's son was down and I offered him a sled. He went hame and told his faither that I was an awfu' fine man for I was goin' to gie him a sled but the auld man said, 'Have nothin' to do wi' it. You don't know whose sled it is.' But it was my ain sled an' I was goin' to give it to the lad.'" Then, having finished the meal and ended the story, he rose and said, "Noo, Mistress Young, I'll bid ye good-bye. I'm thinkin' the farmer an' the widow will hae their sparkin' done and we maun be awa hame."

The couple had indeed progressed far in their courtship; with such an introduction as Uncle Mac had given them, there was little need for delay and the wedding was ar-

ranged to take place in two weeks. It proved to be a success. The widow and her two daughters had a good home. The farmer was satisfied, well cared for, and proud of the four children born to them. His wife had demonstrated her worth that day when she made the "sapples flee".

Uncle Mac had a knack for getting congenial people together. He understood human nature. The homesick settlers were all the better because of Uncle Mac in those first days. They had more appetite for their corn bread and the coffee made of middlings mixed with molasses and browned in the oven, when laughing over Uncle Mac's jokes. Even to this day the countryside is full of stories of his long remembered drollery.

THE DANGART

Gilbert McDowall, the husband of Margaret Wilson, was another unusual character. As we have seen, most of the first settlers named their farms in north Tama County after their former homes in Scotland. The men went by the names of their farms and Gilbert McDowall was called the Dangart. The name has persisted in the community to this day and many stories are told about the Dangart while most of the other farm names are forgotten.

Mr. McDowall was a strong man physically. At one time when his yoke of oxen got stuck in a snowbank with a small load of wheat on a sled, he took a four-bushel sack on his shoulder and carried it a quarter of a mile to lighten the load for the oxen. He had few educational advantages in his youth; but he was shrewd, possessed a goodly measure of assurance, native wit, common sense, and was not afraid to speak his mind in a forceful way. This made him a masterful man.

The McDowalls had a large family of aggressive, handsome, and thoroughly efficient children. The Dangart was

said to have "given the boys the gad occasionally" but they probably needed it.

West Wilson's house was in plain view of the McDowall farm. To protect his horses and cattle from the winter winds the Squire had a shed covered with hay, which he called the byre. One morning after a big snowstorm, the Dangart saw no byre, only a huge snowbank. The Squire later told how he got on top with his shovel — but where should he begin? He figured out where the door was likely to be but it took him all day shoveling to get it open. He took great satisfaction in the fact that he guessed just where the door was.

This snowstorm was followed by sleet the next day. The Squire got word of a large herd of deer in Four Mile Grove. All the able-bodied men of the community set out to get a supply of meat. This was a great opportunity and they got out all their available firearms. The Squire took the double-barreled rifle he had brought from Connecticut, giving his pistols to his nephews; the Dangart gave his single-barreled shot gun to his older boys and carried a pitchfork. The crowd joked him about going out to hunt deer with a pitchfork. They saw plenty of deer but the McDowall boys missed their aim. The Squire, being a big man, fell through the snow's crust before getting within proper range, and did not get out until the deer were gone. Later that afternoon he found the Dangart, his pitchfork through a deer's neck holding it down but unable to dispatch it. The Squire killed the animal. It had been a good hunt even though their only deer was captured by the Dangart with his pitchfork.

McDowall was an elder in the Tranquillity Presbyterian Church for many years. Like most of the others, he insisted "The Psalms of David are good enough for saint or sinner and we'll just sing them." But underneath the

rough masterful exterior was a kindly tolerance of human frailty. Once a church member was brought before the session on a charge of intoxication. He had fallen in the street at Toledo. The man was quite penitent and said to the elders, "Well, it is true. I really fell." McDowall immediately spoke up, "Well, we a' fell."

Nor was the Dangart lacking in humor. He went to a sale soon after coming to the States. A man from Minnesota, the wilds then, made the remark that a moose was as big as a cow. Now, moose is a Scotch word for mouse, so the Dangart inquired, "If a moose is as big as a coo, how big is a rat?"

The Dangart brought up his family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. He even frowned upon Sabbath courting. Once a young man coming on such a mission — there were a number of attractive daughters — was met by the stern and masterful Dangart at the gate who said, "Gang awa' hame, boy, an' read yer Book (Bible)."

They kept the Sabbath very strictly in those Scotch homes. John Stevenson, though an easy going, good-natured man, put all newspapers away Saturday night; so that, aside from the Bibles, the children had nothing much to read but the commentaries. They were even reprimanded for whittling.

Even in later years, Edward Dodd¹⁷ frowned upon the boys swimming in Wolf Creek on the Sabbath; but they always got permission to salt the cattle on this afternoon. The pastures took in the creek bottoms and the cattle were salted near the best swimming hole.

Twice daily these Scotch fathers gathered their households together for family worship. They read the chapter verse about, never omitting anything, not even a genealogy.

¹⁷ Edward Dodd, a brother of Andrew Dodd, married Janet Wilson, eldest daughter of the Squire.

They tell us that the Dangart who read the books of the Bible straight through from beginning to end got into a long genealogy one morning when the wheat was ready to cut. They were reading laboriously, so-and-so begat so-and-so, nothing but begats. It all seemed useless this morning, so the Dangart interrupted the reading, "So-and-so begat so-and-so and so it continues to the foot of the page and a wee bit over. Let us pray." They all knelt down and the boys were soon out in the wheatfield.

But the Dangart was a sincere and consecrated man. According to an old lady who, years ago, worked in his home one summer after his own daughters were married, he always sought in his prayer at family worship to bring out the fact that everything in our lives showed the handiwork of the Lord; he seldom rose from his knees without quoting the Psalmist, "Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge."

Gilbert McDowall was the only one of the elder people who used snuff regularly. The boys mimicked his method of taking it and these fun-loving sons and nephews told the following humorous story. The Dangart found to his consternation one morning before worship that his snuffbox was empty. He called his family together and ordered them to begin reading, verse about, the One Hundred and Nineteenth Psalm.¹⁸ Then he started out for Toledo, fifteen miles away, for his snuff. Returning just as they were reading the last verse, he took a pinch of snuff, put it in the hollow of his wrist, snuffed it up his nose, gave a resounding sneeze, and said, "Let us pray."

ANDREW McCOSH

Andrew McCosh, a brother of the first Mrs. John Wilson, was a philosopher, like his cousin, James McCosh, president

¹⁸ The One Hundredth and Nineteenth Psalm has 176 verses, but the time required to read it aloud would hardly suffice for a thirty mile drive.

of Princeton for twenty years. This great metaphysician was brought up in the same Ayrshire Covenanter community as were the Tranquillity McCoshes. The pioneer farmer, Andrew McCosh, living on his farm along Wolf Creek, had the same mental qualities and nobility of character that characterized his distinguished relative; but he lacked the driving force that made his cousin president of Princeton, and a nephew, Secretary of Agriculture. His philosophy dealt with homely matters.

One day James Wilbur (Will) Wilson, son of "Tama Jim", was planting potatoes with a newly-broken colt. It was a hard job to keep the four-year-old in the furrow. Andrew McCosh came out from the "wee hoose" and crossed the plowed field on his way to the farm of his son, Jack. He squinted down the uneven rows. Young Wilson much provoked over his tussle with the colt said, "I can't get this plaguy horse to go straight. He wants to go home all the time." "Ah, weel", the old man finally replied, "there'll be mair tatties grow in crooked rows than in straight ones."

Andrew McCosh provided for his family's needs; aside from this he had no desire for accumulating money, acquiring material benefits, or installing modern conveniences. He would have nothing to do with mattresses and springs even in his later years when all the neighbors were buying them; the tick of straw, refilled every year after the threshing, sufficed for him.

He chose to take time to enjoy what he had. On most farms the first houses built were soon made into back kitchens or granaries — not Andrew McCosh's. He built only a small lean-to at the back of his, but there was more enjoyment of life in this little house where the latch string was always out than in the more pretentious homes about him. Indeed it was in the "wee hoose" that the most charming

and kindly hospitality of the community was dispensed. There were no grand parties. People just stopped in as they went by. Uncle Andrew and Aunt Lizzie¹⁹ always had time to receive them.

Peter McEwen and his aristocratic Scotch bride of a few months were going home from Traer one afternoon. The dentist had pulled two teeth for Mrs. McEwen. "Let's take a little time off to rest", said Peter, "and go in and see Mrs. McCosh."

"Oh, I'm glad to see ye, Peter!", exclaimed Mrs. McCosh. "I've been wantin' ye to bring yer braw wife over." She put some cobs in the stove and whisked the kettle on. "Yer no goin' on til ye hae a cup o' tea." After the tea was brewed this understanding hostess inquired, "And hoo air ye gettin' on wi' yer bread bakin'?" It was always difficult for the Scotch women, used to scones and oatcakes, to master the Yankee art of bread-baking.

"My bread is sweet and guid to taste but it's no light enough", said the Scotch bride. "Oh, ye have it all right except that ye maun let it raise longer in the pans afore bakin' it", and Aunt Lizzie explained the process at length. The young wife went on her way cheered by the friendly interest and counsel as well as the cup of tea.

No one ever came away from the "wee hoose" without a cup of tea. Once when I was attending high school in Traer, I remember riding out to Tranquillity one Saturday morning with the Methodist minister who was to preach at one of the services. I was to meet father and go home for the week-end. It was early. The minister went into the manse, and I slipped over to see Mrs. McCosh.

She took me right into the kitchen. In a twinkling I had a cup of tea. There was a plate of cookies. All this for a high school girl. No one had ever before made a cup of tea

¹⁹ Elizabeth (Lizzie) Sloss married Andrew McCosh.

just for me. It was a chilly November day and I can feel even now the warmth and cheer of that little lean-to kitchen with the strips of clean rag carpet, the geraniums and fuchsias in the sunny windows, the purring cat, the steaming tea kettle, the smiling white-haired woman talking away so entertainingly as she swatted a belated fly and finished scouring her white-handled knives with the powdered brick.

Auntie McCosh won the hearts of all the boys. Henry Wilson²⁰ who once herded cattle not far away said, "There was sure to be a generous supply of fine cookies when a hungry boy came to her door." In later years, Will Wilson²¹ who lived on the other side said, "There was always a cookie or a scone in the jar for me."

Andrew McCosh and his wife were well suited to each other; though as they walked across to church they seemed an ill-matched couple—this tall, gaunt, big shouldered, patriarchal man in his Sabbath blacks, slow moving, deep thinking, philosophic, and the dainty little lady by his side in her gray shawl, alert and versatile like her brother, Geordie Sloss, with lots of grit, a ready tongue, and able to hold her own in any company.

Mrs. McCosh was always about where there was trouble, sitting up with the sick in the wee sma' hours, closing the eyes of the dead, tempting the bereft with bowls of broth or cups of tea. Uncle Andrew was like his wife "an ever present help". When a family of five children were all sick with diphtheria in 1877, Uncle Andrew was the only person who went to their door offering help. Others were afraid of this scourge that was wiping out whole families.

Andrew McCosh would have made a good doctor for he had an aptitude for medicine and considerable scientific

²⁰ Henry L. Wilson was one of West Wilson's sons.

²¹ James Wilson married Esther Wilbur and Will Wilson (James Wilbur) was one of their children.

knowledge picked up through experience and reading. One day the minister's son was brought to the manse across the way with a great ragged wound in his leg. The boy had hired to a neighboring farmer and had fallen through a thatched roof onto a barbed wire fence. There were no antiseptics, not even a general knowledge of them, but Andrew McCosh promptly washed out the cut, laid the boy on the table, heated a poker, cauterized the wound, and sewed it up. It healed without infection.

When the same lad seemed too much interested in Mr. McCosh's pipe and tobacco, the old man was just as prompt and severe in his treatment. Filling the pipe, he handed it to the boy to smoke his fill. He was deathly sick and well cured for years of any fondness for tobacco.

Mr. McCosh was the only veterinarian anywhere near. He doctored all the sick horses and cattle in the community for years, laboring to get medicine down the throats of sick animals by means of long necked bottles, poulticing and sweating them, leaving his work, sitting up nights, walking or riding weary miles in all kinds of weather; but he never took a cent of money for his help. Andrew McCosh was considered an expert judge of stock, cattle especially. Years before he raised pedigreed cattle himself, he served as judge at county and district fairs.

He was good at figuring out difficult mathematical problems and he gave much time to the simple accounts of the church, serving most of his life as treasurer. He read a great deal, took time to ponder over what he read, and digested events of the day. Having a big outlook and broad sympathies, he weighed all issues, saw all sides, and rendered an unbiased opinion. This freedom from prejudice made him the adviser, judge, and peacemaker of the community. He was instrumental in settling many a case out of court but he charged no fees.

He always knew how to give people the help or inspiration they needed. A young grandniece was growing tall but stoop shouldered. Uncle McCosh stopped her one day as she was coming down the church walk and said, "Stand up! Haud up yer heid and never be ashamed o' yer height."

A couple with several girls had adopted a little boy. The child was sick all the first winter and the mother devoted herself to this ill-nourished baby. One Sunday after service, while she was putting on the baby's wraps by the stove, Mr. McCosh came up and said with a kindly smile as he looked down at the baby, "The wee man is doin' better I see. Weel, I'm sure o' one thing, ye'll hae one bright star in yer heavenly crown."

MILLER AND SERMON TASTER

"That was nae sermon", said Geordie Sloss one Sabbath as he untied his yellow ponies after church. The pulpit had been filled by a candidate. "A man might better bide at hame an' read Talmage's sermon than listen ta ony one wi' sae little in his heid." "Ay", agreed Andrew McCosh, "yon man had nae thochts worth mentionin', I'll aloo."

Tranquillity read widely and pondered deeply. When new men were candidating in this small church, the older ministers of the synod warned them to put their meatiest sermons in their grips, leaving all their flowery ones at home. Well they knew that these country men and women would give the new minister a hearing that was unhurried, honest, and critical from start to finish; that they would not only be sure to get all the good and bad points but to sense the lack of points as well.

To please Tranquillity, a minister had to be orthodox; but most of the people wanted their minister to be broad minded — in fact he might be as broad minded as he chose, provided he was sound in his doctrine. The people were

especially critical of pretension and superficiality. They were all sermon tasters and none of them slow in passing judgment; but some, like George Sloss, were especially keen and well versed in theology. He was regarded as an expert in sizing up the minister's sermon.

George Sloss had bought the Klingaman mill from W. W. Leekin, an ambitious and aristocratic miller whom Uncle Mac nicknamed "Lord Leekin". I remember being there with father and seeing Mr. Sloss and his genial son, Andrew, in their dusty white suits and visored caps. When Elder John Wilson, the Dangart, or Uncle Mac appeared with a grist, Geordie was ready for them.

Being a great reader, Geordie was well posted and could put up a good argument on his side of any question. At one time he was full of the theories of Dr. Thomas Chalmers, the progressive Scotch preacher who held that the seven days in creation were not days of twenty-four hours but cycles. The study of geology was just new and Chalmers maintained that the story of the rocks proved his theory. Mr. Sloss believed Chalmers was right, but many of the other men held that it was blasphemy to question the literal interpretation of the Bible.

It is said that the older Tranquillity men sometimes spent half a day at a time arguing about religious questions and that they were usually trying to persuade George Sloss out of some radical idea. This progressive man served as a mental stimulus to the more conservative and satisfied people of the church.

Sloss was ever of an open mind. One Sunday Dr. Samuel Conybeare, the Tranquillity minister, preached on missions and said we might all be where the heathen are if Paul had gone east instead of west. A neighbor woman later recalled that Sloss was walking that day and after the service got in their sled to ride to the corner. He said, "I've never be-

lieved in foreign missions but I was converted today.” After this he always gave generously to this work.

Sloss was also ready to investigate and try out new suggestions outside of religion. One day Dalton Wilson²² was planning to dig a well and he went up to borrow Geordie’s auger with a long shank. “Whar will ye dig the well?”, Geordie inquired. “I’m not very sure of the right place”, replied Dalton.

Geordie’s face lighted with an inspiration. “Young man”, he said, “did you never hear of taking a forked hazel stick an’ huntin’ for water — witching for water it’s called. Let’s try it.”

So Dalton cut the hazel stick and Geordie left his hay-cocks and went over to the Squire’s. They walked slowly round and round in the pasture holding the magic witching stick. “Don’t ye see it pointing doon?”, Geordie said at length. Although of an inventive and imaginative turn, Dalton was no adept in witchery and he replied, “No, I can’t see it pointing anywhere at all.” And Sloss was convinced that the hazel stick lacked power to witch water.

There is no better illustration of the breadth of Geordie’s sympathy and vision than the phrase he so often used in his prayer, “Surely to goodness, Lord, the road is broad enough for us all.”

George Sloss had a kind heart and a ready hand to help a neighbor. When the Squire’s first wife died (leaving a new-born babe and eight young children), the relatives were thrown into consternation for no coffin was to be had. To these people brought up in an older civilization and used to the refinements of life, this was an unthinkable predicament. Sloss was a trained mechanic so he set to work with some rough walnut boards young James Wilson had sawed at the Klingaman mill. There was a beautiful coffin.

²² Dalton Wilson was a son of West Wilson.

George Sloss was one of the best read men in the community. A woman whose reputation was founded on her bonnets, her scoured kitchen, and her jams and jellies, rather than her knowledge of Latin, was visiting one day at his home. He was discoursing about the greatness of Julius Caesar, and how his ideas of road building and his military tactics were quite modern. The good lady was overawed. She said afterward, "When I came awa' I thocht I kent nathin'."

Henry Wilson recalled that Sloss took a great interest in church work. "When we had no minister, he would talk to the congregation at Sunday school. I did not attend regularly as my job was herding the cattle; but I remember Mr. Sloss on one occasion, giving a talk on, 'The Narrow Road'. I was only eleven and cannot remember the points in his sermon except that he was easily followed. I considered at the time he did very well — in fact much better than many preachers I had listened to."

Mr. Sloss was a good talker, better than most of the men in the church. He was versatile and quick to think on his feet. Before the annual business meeting there was always a feeling of uneasiness that Geordie might have some new schemes or original ideas to propose. So great was the general desire for peace that the thought of the least altercation worried the more timid members and George Sloss liked controversial subjects.

One Sabbath a short business meeting was held after the morning service. Elder James Taylor was stuttering and hesitating in his usual fashion. "Ay, ay, just so" — hemming, hawing, trying to say something. The people were getting on edge. They wanted to go home to their good dinners and the matter in hand was trivial. Sloss could stand it no longer. He jumped up and said, "If ye hae onything to say, spit it oot."

ROBERT YOUNG GETS A START IN THE NEW LAND

The Stevenson family first located in Ontario where they were later joined by the eldest son of a Scotch family, Robert Young,²³ who had also come out to reconnoiter for his family. Not satisfied with Canada, her timbered country, and long winters, he wrote home to Ayrshire: "I believe Tama county, Iowa, where Gilbert McMillan has gone, is about the best place that can be found, as there are government lands to be had, fine prairies, and a good climate."

So in the spring Robert Young, wiser in this than the Stevensons, moved on to Tama County, arriving just after Stephen Klingaman's disappearance. People were still talking about the affair. A letter to his parents in Scotland, written from Buckingham and dated September 19, 1860, gave them the following information:

"The Scotch people in Tama county are mostly living in hastily put up houses, intending to build new ones as soon as they can. They cannot grow as much here as in Scotland; this year which is far above the average, wheat will run from 15-30 bushels an acre; Indian corn, 40 bushels.

"The land I want to buy is in a fine and heartsome place. I'm sure you will like it. Buckingham village is in full view. This has only ten houses but will rise fast when the railroad comes.

"I have been working for George Sloss but I think I'll begin plowing land with my oxen on shares. We give the owner one-third of the crop. I'll plow as much as I can this way besides all my own land. All winter I'll get wood out of the timber for fencing; but I can do nothing at putting this up until the frost goes out of the ground. Fencing is the worst job we have in the west on account of the timber being so scarce and hard to split.

"In the spring, I will have enough and more than I can

²³ An uncle of the writer.

do to get the crop in the ground. I am worst off for implements. They are awful dear here. I wish brother Matthew had been here to make me some harrows, but I will get them some way. I would like you to be out so father and Matthew could help me fence before the wheat would be that far up that the cattle would eat it, which would be about the middle of May.

“George Sloss built a schoolhouse and was to receive the money March 1st, but someway he can’t get it and therefore I haven’t wages from him. I want a horse badly.”

In a letter dated March 19, 1861, Robert wrote:

“I am glad to hear that you have decided to come out to the prairies. You need not be afraid of the secession movement. I have the papers you sent. You seem to take the affair far worse on your side of the Atlantic. The western people treat the matter pretty coolly. The thing will blow over in a little while. The people here hate slavery as badly as they do in Britain. It is evident that they can’t get along in the same union, the fire eaters of the South and the people of the North.

“We have had terrible snows but I wrought away in the timber, broke the roads through the snowdrifts and got the logs all hauled out on the prairie. We will be ready to fence when you come.

“I have an old log house taken for you. It may present a dismal appearance but houses are scarce, one can live in any kind of house here in the summer. It is at the edge of the timber, within half a mile of Buckingham. Your nearest neighbor will be James Wilson²⁴ and Flora, his sister, who is keeping house for him. They have a new house right beside the log cabin.

²⁴ James Wilson had left the Klingaman mill when the owner disappeared and had started a farm just east of Tranquillity Church. Peter’s land lay just south of this and it was comparatively easy for the two brothers to pool their farms when Peter went to war.

“This place is going ahead dull times and all. There is a railroad within eighteen miles²⁵ with a prospect of it coming right through here. You must bear in mind that there were only two white men in Tama County at the census of 1850. Now there is a fairly large county town²⁶ with two newspapers. This is a fine country but there is a good deal of hard work for the emigrants until they get things fixed; then they can live like kings.

“But I must speak of your passage. It is far easier and cheaper to start at Glasgow than Liverpool and there are not so many rogues. Pack your things in as small compass as possible. Your common Delf²⁷ plates will do for the sea and some jugs to hold tea. You will need a wash basin and two pitchers to hold water for a drink at night, one for males and one for females. On the ship I came on we were as well supplied with good fresh water as we had been at the Loch of Lig. Pack your blankets in a sack. Your bed ticks will do firstrate for hammocks; just leave a little chaff in them so they will fold up and they will be better than mattresses. You will likely get plenty of provisions on the boat but you will not like the tea. You will be as well to bring a little and some kind of teapot. You can get scalding water from the cook if you speak him fair. Take some oat cakes too but it is hardly worth preparing a great deal for all the time you will be on the sea.²⁸ You will need more provisions coming through the country as it is awful dear stopping in hotels.

“I do not know how I will get down to Cedar Rapids for

²⁵ Both Tama and Waterloo had railroads as early as 1861. There was also a railroad to Cedar Rapids and the Youngs came by that road.

²⁶ This apparently referred to Toledo which was founded as the county seat of Tama County in 1853.

²⁷ An earlier spelling of Delft.

²⁸ The Young family came by steamboat, making a quicker trip than the family of John Stevenson who came in a sailing vessel.

you as I will not have the crop fenced. I can get some boy to herd those days I am away but the worst trouble is I will not know exactly when you will be there. You will have to write and tell me the day the ship leaves Glasgow and I will try to calculate just when you will be at the Rapids. You need not write at New York as you will very likely be at the Rapids long before the letter reaches me. The post only comes to Buckingham once a week.

“You must try and start about the first of May. Now as to money; you will see how much you have after the sale. Calculate to bring at least one hundred pounds. Less might do but the more the better. The man I bought the land from has to get \$240 August 1.”

Then Robert wrote at the top of the page:

“I forgot to speak about passing the doctor. You had all better go together; if there was anything said you could appear to walk as well as possible while passing.” The mother had suffered an injury to her knee joint in getting out of a coach a few years before and had to use crutches. They got past the medical inspector all right, however.

Robert Young and Gilbert McMillan were to bring loads of grain to market in Cedar Rapids and take them to Tama County but were delayed by spring freshets and no one appeared to greet them. Rather than keep his large family at a hotel, Mr. Young hired a man with a team and wagon. The chests filled the wagon; the crippled mother and a little girl rode with the driver; the others walked. The first night they stayed with a family at Parker's grove — in those days they did not need to put out the sign, “Tourists Accommodated”. The next day, somewhere south of Vinton, they spied two teams of oxen, the drivers walking. As they came nearer, they recognized Robert and Mr. McMillan. Uncle Mac threw his hat into the air and hoorayed for “Bonnie Scotland”.

When they reached the old log cabin opposite the new house where James Wilson lived, Flora had raised an American flag on the porch and cooked a fine dinner for the weary travelers.

As we have seen, Robert, who never considered whether or not he was tired, had put in a big crop. He was counting on his brother Matthew's help to get up the fences before the grain was high enough for the cattle to eat. Matthew, just out of the cabinet maker's shop in Kilmarnock, began this rough pioneer work with a keen zest, but a cold and then pneumonia developed, and five weeks after he arrived they buried him in Buckingham cemetery. He had left his sweetheart in Scotland and was going back for her later. He had come to Iowa with high hopes; there was opportunity and much work for men with his training. Before fifteen months the Youngs had buried three of their ten children on this hillside, pneumonia, drowning, typhoid — deaths all more or less the result of pioneer conditions. The new life was hard.

Many of the older men and women were homesick for the life in Scotland. One prominent man would sit for hours with his head in his hands that first winter and say, "Oh, why did I come to this country?" His sister was no better, even though she had her large family. According to Secretary Wilson, John Glenn likened these first settlers to the Israelites and said, "We are here but the Lord brought us through fire and water."

JANETTE STEVENSON MURRAY

CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA

PETER WILSON IN THE CIVIL WAR

IN BATTLE AND ON PAROLE

The installment of Civil War letters written by Peter Wilson published in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS* for April ended with a letter written from Benton Barracks on February 4, 1862. The collection published in this number includes the letters written in the midst of the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Pittsburgh Landing. Peter Wilson was taken prisoner on April 6, 1862, and there are no letters in the collection after March 24th until May 17, 1862, when he wrote from Monterey, Tennessee. He was then a paroled prisoner, having given his word not to fight against the Confederates until exchanged.

His experiences during the time he was a prisoner in the Confederacy are briefly told in his first letter written to his father. For the next seven months Peter Wilson was a paroled prisoner, neither a civilian nor a soldier, and his letters reflect the uncertainty of his status.—The Editor.

Fort Henry, Feb. 10th, 1862

Dear brother:

The last time I wrote we were under marching orders. At present we hold ourselves in readiness either for marching or fighting. But to go back a little, we left Camp Benton last Wednesday and got aboard a steamboat with all our baggage, teams, ambulances, &c. The boat was pretty well crowded but we had a very pleasant trip. We came to Cairo under sealed orders. When we got there we heard of the capture of this place¹ and were immediately steaming up the Ohio. I suppose you know where this place is better

¹ Fort Henry was captured by Federal forces on February 6, 1862.

than I do so I will not say any more than it is some 50 miles up the Tennessee River. We arrived about nine o'clock Saturday morning and got ashore as quickly as possible. As far as we could see in all directions from the river the woods were full of tents and multitudes of soldiers. As soon as we got ashore we went up to the fort where we could see Secesh blood and brains. I don't think there were many killed. I will try and give you an idea of the plan of the fight and how it came out. I don't know how many Infantry and Cavalry there were. It don't matter as they did not get a chance to do any thing. The gunboats were some four or five miles down the river and the Cav. and Inf. on shore just opposite. The gunboats were to go ahead and shell the fort, while the land force went around to capture them [the garrison] as they ran out. The plan was all right but instead of hours, 1 hour and ten minutes cleared out the nest so the land force was too late. The Cavalry pursued and took some prisoners. The woods were full of clothing, guns, knapsacks, &c thrown away by the frightened Secesh. You have heard a good deal of the Secesh being poorly clad and fed. It has not been so in this place. Some of the Cos. had the dinner on the table and so sudden was the stampede they left it all in order for the hungry Yankees. They had about ten acres covered with log cabins and tents enough for five or six thousand men. The fort had 17 cannon from 64 to 124 pounders. They have thrown up breastworks enough to make five miles of railroad. They have cut down a great amount of timber to keep us from getting at them from the land. They have done an immense work and thought that fifty thousand men could not whip them.

There was an Irishman in the fort who would not run with the rest. He said when the action commenced the first shot from their heaviest gun struck one of the gunboats

and bounded three hundred feet high without doing any damage. The gunboats are such a shape that they can't be hit so as to do much damage. They slant from the water up so that the balls will glance. The only damage to the gunboats was a ball from a rifled cannon entered through one of the portholes and entered the boiler. Some of the men were scalded to death by the hot steam. As soon as the Secesh saw what effect their guns had on the gunboats they gave up all hope. To add to their trouble the gunboats threw their shells so accurately they could pick off the gunners like a rifleman at fifty yards. One shell hit their rifled cannon and glancing under exploded in the carriage tearing it to pieces. Another fell in front of their 124 pounder throwing a quantity of dirt into it. They were in so much hurry they crammed in the cartridge on top of the dirt and it would not go off. It was found so when our men entered the fort. But you will have all the details in the newspapers so I need not add.

There are somewhere near 40,000 men here at present and still they come at the rate of five or six thousand daily. There are six batteries of Field Artillery close to our encampment and doubtless more in other parts of the camp. This is what has a right to the name of a camp. It is three miles long by a mile and a half wide on our side of the river and as the land is high on both sides of the river we can see thousands of tents on the other side. The first Reg. that arrived got all the clothes, guns, pistols, &c. The first thing that took my attention when we landed was one of our boys in a full suit of a Capt's. uniform with something like a hedge knife dangling by his side. The clothes were good but not so fine as our officers wear. The sword was heavy enough to chop wood with and must have been made many years ago. The most of their arms were flint lock muskets, shot guns, &c &c.

We have struck our tents on a pleasant hillside. The weather is very pleasant, the country abounds with cattle, sheep, hogs, geese, ducks, chickens, &c. Our Reg. killed two good big fat oxen yesterday. A number of our boys go out daily and bring in all they can carry of the feathered tribe so we are having good times. What the design of bringing so many men to this place is I cannot tell. There is another fort² some fifteen miles from here over on the Cumberland that will doubtless be attacked within a few days. My opinion is that they are going into the Secesh in good earnest now. If they don't fight any better than they did this time they will soon be played out as the saying is but time will tell. You need not expect to hear from me very often for some time. We don't expect to stay here many days, we may leave tomorrow. If we get to marching overland which is very probable my chances for writing will be few but I will write as often as possible. I received three letters while on board the boat at St. Louis. Your letters directed to Camp Benton, St. Louis, will find us here but I think they would come more direct by Cairo, Ill. It don't make much difference if the Co. & Reg. is correct which way you send. It would not be best to direct to this place as we may be gone soon. I think they will dismantle this place and leave it to itself pretty soon. But I must finish, give my love to all and at present no more but remain your affect brother,

Fort Donaldson [Donelson] Tenn. Feb. 18th, 62
 Dear father: I wrote James before we left Fort Henry and now that another opportunity presents itself I shall write a few lines again to let you know how we fare in Dixieland. We left Fort Henry on Wednesday last and marched over here a distance of twelve miles. We left our knapsacks so as not to have any trouble with them in the battle. The

² Fort Donelson.

fight commenced the next morning although but few of the Regs. had come up. The 14th was the first to begin. We were expecting to find a masked battery and to feel the enemy's strength at a certain point without getting into a general engagement. As soon as we came in sight of the breastworks some eighty rods distant the balls began to whiss [whiz] around us. We had only some ten or fifteen rods further to go to get under the brow of the hill where we were out of range. In going that distance which did not take long we lost 4 killed and 15 wounded. One of the killed belonged to our Co. Six of our boys were hit in various places but none of them seriously. Espy McKune³ was hit on the buckle of his cartridge box which saved his life. When we got out of range of their musketry we began in their own style to fire from behind trees, stumps, &c. Pretty soon the shells from their batteries began to fall amongst us, with a sprinkling of grape, canister, &c. The place was getting very uncomfortable when a party of Sharpshooters of which the woods was full, seeing our danger, got to a position where they could pick off the gunners. In a short time the battery was silenced and one of the prisoners told me since that the Sharpshooters had killed their gunners all but two or three and they were wounded.

I need not give you a detailed account of the battle as you will hear it more correctly than I can give it. I will only speak of what came under my own observation. The 25 Ind. on our left retreated hastily and got pretty well cut up. We saw the way it was going and retreated round the hill about dark without losing any more men. Considering all things we did well for the first time. It commenced raining about the time we retreated and in the course of the

³ John E. McKune, aged twenty-one, from Tama County, is listed on the roster of Company G. He died at Macon, Georgia, on August 9, 1862, while a prisoner of war.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 824.

night turned into snow and in the morning was freezing hard. We had no tents and nothing most of the time but crackers to eat. The booming of Artillery was kept up most of the time. We lay quiet all day Friday and Saturday afternoon the Iowa Second & the Ind. 25 and Iowa 14 were again brought into it. The Iowa 2nd⁴ stormed the breastwork in gallant style. We came up over the same ground and the sight of so many dead and wounded was shocking. The smell of powder was strong and seemed to have the effect of making me [men] feel as though they did not care.

The Regs. got mixed up in going over the breastworks. For my part I got ahead from our Reg. which was ordered to halt and hold what those ahead had gained. The rebel cannon from the second breastwork was raking us fearfully while we could not shoot for our own men of the 2 & 7 were all mixed up. For the same reason they directed their guns on us. All those inside were ordered behind the breastworks out of the fire the 2 & 7 retreated and formed behind us and took their station on our right along the breastworks. Our cannon were soon playing against the rebel batteries with good success and towards evening the battle ceased and we stood to our guns another night expecting an attack. The wounded were taken off the field. Some forty or fifty dead lay on the hill where we had come up. Only one of our Reg. was killed that day, a good many were wounded. While I was inside the breastworks there were a good many killed and wounded all around me. I cannot understand why so many of us escaped. The balls flew so thick, sometimes within an inch or two of my head, it seems astonishing how I escaped. I have great reason to be thankful for health and preservation from the many dangers through [which] we have passed.

⁴ A brief account of the Second Iowa at Fort Donelson is given in Cole's *Iowa Through the Years*, pp. 291, 292.

Sabbath morning preparation was made to storm the entire fort. Everything was in readiness for the attack when the white flag was run up and the fort surrendered & we were glad to have it end so. For my part I expected to see the hardest fight that day. I don't know how many have been killed as the fortifications are some five miles long. The hardest fighting was done between some Ill. Regs. and the enemy on the left wing. Some of our boys that visited that part of the battle ground saw as many as 60 in one pile laid out for burial but I may as well finish. All the Wolf Creek boys are unhurt and there are not better or braver soldiers in the Army, that we have had a chance to prove. Some of our boys got frightened and ran like sheep but they were not many. I will write more as soon as possible, so no more from your affect son Peter Wilson
The number of prisoners taken was about 15 or 16000.

Fort Donaldson [Donelson], Feb. 19th, 62

Dear brother:

I wrote to father yesterday but as this is a rainy day and we have nothing to do I will write a few lines more to give you some idea what kind of a place this is. The country between Fort Henry and Donaldson [Donelson] is as rough as Connecticut and the soil very poor. The timber is good both in quantity and quality. There are not many houses and the niggers have all been carried off. We passed several plantations that had been vacated. We had quite a pleasant nights rest in the timber the first night, thinking what scenes the next day would bring forth. We supposed the hardest fighting was done by our Brigade but after the battle we found that much the hardest fighting was done on the right some three miles from our position. The breast-works & rifle pits extend about six miles along the heights back about two miles. The country is very bluffy about

here. I was much surprised at the surrender of so strong a place. If they leave as many of our troops here as we had to fight we can hold it against any thing Jeff [Jefferson Davis] can send against us. We received the thanks of General Grant last evening on dress parade for taking the largest number of prisoners ever taken on this continent.

There were only two brigades engaged in the principal part of the fighting so it is likely we will get to stay here for the present to garrison the Fort. Our Brigade is composed of the Iowa 2, 7, 14, Ind. 25th & Col. Burges Sharpshooters. We all had a hand in taking the Fort. The Iowa 2nd led the charge on the breastworks. They did it in gallant style. They are an old Reg., they have been in the service since last April and have been all over Missouri. My friend, Thomson,⁵ from Long Grove was the second man on the breastworks and came out safe. The incessant cracking of musketry and roar of cannon, whizzing of balls of all kinds, the dead and wounded, made a scene I shall never forget. There were a good many killed and wounded within a few feet of me. We can tell by the sound what kind of balls are being fired at us. For my part I dreaded shells more than any thing else. I had no fear of being hit myself but every time a shell fell among us it was sure to kill some one or more. We had not gained the heights more than half an hour before we had four Parrott guns playing on the rebel battery. Our Reg. was ordered to take their stand to support the batteries. The enemy's guns poured shell, grape, canister, and every other kind of missiles amongst us but we had a sheltered position so they could not hurt us much.

We knew we had gained the key to the fort when we had taken the heights and expected they would try to retake them in the night and as we could not be reinforced before

⁵ This was, apparently, Mark L. Thomson, born in Scotland and a resident of Long Grove, Scott County. He later became Captain of Company C, Twentieth Iowa Infantry.

morning we expected a hard time but we were agreeably disappointed. I guess they were as much afraid we would attack them in the second breastwork as we were that they would attack us in the first. The battle on the right was fought in the forenoon. The rebels came out five or six thousand strong and charged on a battery supported by some Ill. Reg. They were successful in taking it but it was retaken and a furious battle was fought. The Rebels had all the advantage in the ground and numbers but were finally driven back with a loss of not less than 400 killed and three times that many wounded. The loss among the Ill. Reg. was full as much as theirs. Any one going over the battlefield cannot form a very correct estimate of the number. You will see in the official report how many were killed and wounded on both sides.

I have had my curiosity satisfied as far as being in battle is concerned and have no wish to be in another but I guess we have only made a beginning. However we must take our chance. We may be in a good many battles before we get into as hot places as we have been in. The first time we got into the bullets we were not expecting it so we had no time to get scared. The second time I was somewhat excited before we got into the battle but when we got among the balls my nerves were as calm as they are at present. I did not know whether I had pluck enough to go through but now I have no fear but I can do my duty, although I know the danger is great. I would rather now be in a soldier's grave than to have acted as some of our boys did. It is disgraceful to see some of our greatest fist-cuff rowdies running away into the timber and not coming back until the battle is over, then hold up their heads and try to make a joke of it. They will not hear the last of it very soon. I am proud to tell you that all the Wolf Creek boys did their duty bravely, not one of them showing the least fear. We are

glad that our little party are all alive yet and in good health considering the hardships we have gone through.

Since we left St. Louis we had no accommodations fit for a human for about two weeks, but we were more concerned about taking the fort than we were about our personal comfort. For my part I feel firstrate after lying in the timber in very rainy, snowy, mean weather and eating hard crackers. Now we have got into good quarters and have plenty to eat. The Secesh had log cabins enough and tents to accommodate fifteen thousand men. We stepped right into their shoes and are doing first rate. I received two letters yesterday, one from you and one from D. Galt. I understand Stivers⁶ has been telling we were homesick and out of health and spirits. It is just as I expected. He knew we did not like him so he takes the only way left to spite us. I weighed myself yesterday and found I am as heavy as usual. I believe the other boys, Frank⁷ in particular, are stouter than when we left home. However it don't matter. Campaigning in the winter is pretty tough business but when I left home I made up my mind to take things as they come and so far I have not grumbled. But I may as well finish. You must overlook bad writing &c as the chance for writing is poor. Write to Co. G 14th Reg., Cairo, Ill., that will be the most direct route,

No more from your brother,

Fort Donelson, Feb 22nd, 1862

Dear Sister Jane:

Since I last wrote you we have seen some stirring times. We left St. Louis some three weeks ago and after a pleasant passage of four days arrived at Fort Henry the day after

⁶ W. H. Stivers had resigned his commission as captain on January 24, 1862, just before the regiment moved into battle. He was later a member of a law firm at Toledo.

⁷ Probably Benjamin Franklin Thomas.

it was taken from the Secesh. We stayed there a day or two and then marched to this place, some twelve miles. We took our stand something about a mile from the enemy's rifle pits and the first night passed away quietly. We slept on the ground and as there were plenty of dry leaves we spent the night quite comfortably. The next morning we got into a fight with the Secesh for the first time, we lost four killed and twenty wounded. The next night was very unpleasant, first rain then snow, and finally pretty hard frost. We had no tents and spent a sleepless night. The next day we had no fighting but we were prepared for an attack. The next day, Saturday, the battle became general on all sides. Our Brigade stormed the heights on the left while a furious battle raged on our right. The enemy tried to break out and get away on the right but were driven back after some four or five hundred were killed on each side. There was some fifty of the Iowa 2nd killed on the left, they being the advance Reg. in storming the breast-works. There were generally ten wounded where one was killed so you have some idea of the horror of such business. I hope we may be spared the necessity of seeing any more such sights.

The dead on our side are all buried so are most of the enemy. The prisoners are all sent off and we are making ourselves comfortable in the enemy's log huts and tents. We found plenty to eat when we got into the Fort and satisfied our hunger after four days on hard crackers and no rest at night. Nothing but the excitement could have kept us up through such hardships as we endured. The Artillery kept up an incessant roar through the day and skirmishing by the pickets went on briskly every night. None of our little party from Wolf Creek has got hurt. Espy McKune got hit on the buckle of his cartridge box belt. The buckle is about two inches square and a quarter of an inch thick.

The ball hit it, glancing off, tearing his coat and bending his buckle considerably. The little piece of brass saved his life. Only one of Co. G was killed and none seriously wounded. Some six or eight were hit in various places through their clothes but a miss of an inch is as good as a mile. Some of the balls came pretty close to my head but I never got touched.

We are under marching orders again and expect to go up the river tomorrow as far as Clarksville. We don't know how it will go at Nashville. There may be some hard fighting there but I guess we will be successful. I think now we have got started the war will soon be finished one way or another. It is more satisfactory than laying round idle. But I must finish. This leaves us all well. I have written several letters home since the Battle^s and got several letters every week. I am glad to hear that they have such good times in my absence. I hope to be with them in the course [of] the summer if I have the luck to get through safe. If it is my fate to die the soldier's death I will try and be found doing my duty to the last. I am proud of the bravery shown by the Wolf Creek boys in the time of battle. They knew their danger and like brave men faced it. But my letter is long enough, so good bye, your affect brother Peter

Write to Co. G 14th Iowa Vol., Cairo, Ill., that is the most direct route to this place. Fort Donelson is in Stewart Co., Tennessee.

Fort Donelson, Feb. 24th, 1862

Dear Sister Flora:

It is some time since I wrote you. I did not expect to have as much leisure after our first battle as we have had.

^s These letters reveal the psychological effects of the first battle on the young soldier from a peaceful community. Like many other serious-minded young men, he seems to have wondered how he would react to personal danger. He also sought for an explanation of his excitement under fire.

We expected to march on Nashville some days ago, but it seems we are not to have any fighting at that place. The news from all points seem to be encouraging to our side. I see the Chicago papers give all the praise to the Ill. troops. They scarcely mention the Iowa Reg. However the mistakes will probably be corrected when the truth becomes known. The Ill. boys fought on the right and had by far the hardest battle. While they were engaged on the right our Brigade stormed the works on the left. There were some fifty or more of the Iowa 2nd and 7th killed in getting up to the breastworks and some 200 wounded. Our Reg. was the fourth inside the works. We had only our Sergt. Major⁹ killed and a few wounded in getting that far.

We were then ordered to fall back behind the breastworks and give room for the Artillery which had just come up. It was our good fortune not to get into as hard fighting as some other Regs. If we had we would have done as well as they did. There was not a Reg. in our Brigade but would have been willing to have taken the lead in storming. The Iowa 2nd being an older and better drilled Reg. than any of the rest was chosen and nobly did they sustain the credit of Iowa soldiers. I talked with some of the prisoners that had fought them. They said they lost all hope when they saw that no matter how many fell in coming up the hill they never wavered. As soon as the boys got near enough to use the bayonet the Secesh broke and ran and many a greycoat got a bullet in his back in the race. But I may as well quit writing about the battle as the more I explain the less you will understand, so I will write a little about how we spend our time.

At present some of our boys live in tents and some in log cabins. Our mess live in one tent. We have not done any-

⁹ Stillman H. Smith, Sergeant Major of the Fourteenth Iowa, was killed in action at Fort Donelson on February 15, 1862. His residence was Anamosa.

thing since we came into the Fort but cook and eat. We appropriated flour, rice, molasses, sugar, &c when we came into the Fort and get our rations as usual from the Commissary. We make flapjacks, biscuits, cook rice, have plenty of all that is necessary to eat and tea & coffee to drink so we have great times cooking and fare sumptuously every day. We had all our clothes dirty when we came here but now we have our washing done up again. There are some of the best springs of soft, clear water here that I have seen. The soil is gravelly and soon dries after rain of which there is no lack here at present. Today it is very pleasant something like May. It is very different from the weather we experienced the time we lay before the breastworks. I suppose the spring begins about this time in this part of the country.

We don't know how long we may remain here. The way things look now I think there is more likelihood of our going down the Mississippi than up the Cumberland. For my part I am not particular where we go, only as we get a chance to do as much good as has been done this time. I can't say that I like such times as we have gone through lately but I would rather they would pitch in and finish what is so well begun. I am not tired of soldiering yet, but I don't care how soon the thing is decided, only so as the Rebels are completely brought under. Some of them, after being so badly whipped here, did not hesitate to say that one of their soldiers was good for half a dozen of ours. I think they will begin to lose conceit of themselves by and by. They look more like a colony of Irishmen just come over than they do like soldiers. Their clothes are all homespun, mostly Kentucky jeans. They all carried heavy clumsy knives made out of files. I guess they did not do much execution with them. Some of their best Regs. were armed with six-shooting rifles. They are a splendid gun and they used them with deadly effect on the Iowa 2nd as they came up.

I had not intended to write so much about the Battle but it seems to run in my head more than anything else at present. We have gone all round where hardest fighting was done. Some places where the brush was very thick it is mowed off by the bullets. It is surprising that so many of the men came out alive as did. There is not more than one man killed out of 500 shots fired. I know that hundreds of balls came within a few feet of me the first day, but they could not get a fair shot at us after we got under the brow of the hill. We carried on the fight in Bushwhacking style for several hours as we could neither advance nor retreat until the Sharpshooters silenced the guns by picking off the gunners. We had come over an open space of some ten rods where we were exposed to their fire while we could only see by the smoke where they were. It was rather an uncomfortable predicament we had got into but as soon as we got into as good a position as they had we had a more equal time. As soon as a head raised above the breastwork it was the mark for a dozen shots. In that way we kept things safe until we got out of our unpleasant situation. Few of the Reg. had yet come up and it was not the calculation to make an attempt to go into the works. It was supposed there were some masked batteries in the vicinity and we were sent down to find out so we blundered ahead a little too far but we got out pretty safe considering the place we had got into. But I must finish. There is much that I might write but I can't get it down in a way that it could be understood, so no more from your affect brother,

Fort Donelson, Feb. 28th, '62

Dear Brother:

It is not long since I wrote you but as I received yours of the 13th yesterday and the mail is not carried regularly to this place I again take my pen and sit down not to a desk or

on a chair but on the ground with my portfolio on my knee to scratch a few lines because I have nothing else to do and no disposition to do it if I had. The weather is just warm enough to lie in the shade through the day and sleep good at night. We were inspected today for to be in readiness to receive our pay which we expect to get in a few days. There is no express office here and I don't know how safe it is to send money from here in a letter. However I will see in a few days and send you what I can spare when I get it. We do not get the news here as we used to in St. Louis so we are not posted in what is being done in the other Divisions of the Army but I would rather live here than up there as it is more healthy here and a very pleasant place.

The Sutlers have no opposition here and they run up prices accordingly. Still there are not as many ways of spending money as there were in St. Louis. We have not done any work or drilling of any kind since we came here to amount to anything. We spend our time in cooking, washing, and lounging about. If there was any chance for mischief we would be into it. It is against the rules to go out into the country so we have to content ourselves in the Fort. There is room enough to tramp around considerable. We have been all round over the various battle grounds and discussed the various merits and demerits of Secesh and Union soldiers until the subject is worn out. It seems a wonder that we got into this place without more fighting than we did. I see the Chicago papers give the Ill. boys all the praise not wishing to admit that some of their Reg., though having done their best, were cut to pieces and driven back. The Chicago Tribune says it being necessary to do something to change the fortunes of the day Col. Lauman's Brigade was ordered to make an attack on the left and storm the breastworks which was done with a will every Reg. coming up the hill on a double quick cheering loudly

as they went over. I believe that the advantage then gained discouraged the enemy more than their heavy losses on the right. However I don't intend to take any honours from the Ill. boys that justly belong to them but the Iowa boys first planted the stars & stripes on the Fort and they don't like to see the fact overlooked. I guess the Iowa papers will not pass us by if the Ill. papers should. Governor Kirkwood is here at present. I guess it does the old chap good to find us getting along as well as we are in this outlandish place.

March 2nd, 62

Dear Sister:

I don't recollect whether I have written you since we came here so I will scratch a few lines now to keep our correspondence from falling off. We have had an election of officers to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of our Captain. The Lieuts. & Orderly¹⁰ were promoted in order and the Co. then elected Joseph Shanklin,¹¹ Orderly, and John Gaston to his place of Second Corporal. Shanklin was not the choice of the Wolf Creek boys but the Salt Creek party beat us by only one majority. It don't make much difference as Shanklin is fully qualified to fill the office. There are men in the Co. that are nothing but privates that could fill any office in the Co. But you will not take much interest in such things.

The weather is very rainy here, at present it rains about every other day. The river is very high and steamboats are going up every day with troops. As much as ten Regs. went up today. I cannot even guess what is going on that so many troops are wanted up the river as it is understood

¹⁰ Under this plan of promotion First Lieutenant George Pemberton became Captain, Second Lieutenant William Gallagher became First Lieutenant, and First Sergeant Simon F. Eccles became Second Lieutenant. The First Sergeant was then referred to as the Orderly Sergeant.

¹¹ Joseph A. Shanklin became Second Lieutenant about a year later.

here that the fighting is about over in this State. However we don't know much about what is going on and we must content ourselves to wait and get the news three or four days old. After all we are getting on very comfortably. I sometimes think we are getting spoiled for something to do. We have had the most glorious do nothing time imaginable. When it don't rain the sun shines warm as it does in Iowa in May, the hillsides where they are not tramped too much are getting green so you see it is pleasant to be out of the snows of Iowa for one winter.

It would amuse you some to see us getting our meals cooked. Ep. and Frank are our chief cooks. The rest help according to their strength, skill, and disposition. We get along very agreeably and set a good example to some of the more quarrelsome messes. We have more than we can eat furnished by the Commissary and sometimes add some little luxury from our own pockets. It is about all we have to attend to at present and we get up some grand feasts. I understand from James' letter and others that Cousin Margret¹² is married and also my old friend W. Spencer. The former did not take me unawares but the latter did. Billy will probably find it is easier to get a wife than to get quit of her if they don't agree. I believe I would not swap positions with him. My term is only three years or during the war, his is rather a different arrangement. However I wish them all happiness in their new relations. Give my respects to Margret's husband if you should see him and for the other it is not particular.

March 3d

You will see by the dates that I make rather slow progress with this letter. I just write a piece when I feel like it as the saying is but I will finish today and get it started. The

¹² This was a common name in the Wilson clan. The letters do not indicate to which family Margret belonged.

probability, from the appearance of things at present, is that we will not remain here much longer but I will write to father before we start as it is not likely I will have much chance to write for some time after we leave if we go where we expect to. But my letter is long enough. Give my respects to all the girls first and the boys afterward or let it go just as you please. Good by,

Your affect Brother Peter Wilson

I received two letters from home today, one from father and one from Agnes McMillan.¹³ Father seems to think things move very slowly in the War Department. I guess if he had come through as tough times as we did from the time we left St. Louis until we got into Fort Donelson he would get over some of his hurry for having things go off before they are ready.

I am of the opinion that things will be all right before long. I have confidence in General Grant after seeing the way he managed things here. However time will tell. It is much easier for those at home to talk than it is for those in the field to surmount the difficulties of a campaign at this time of the season.

Encampment in the Woods near Fort Henry
March 11th, 1862

Dear father:

We have been in our present encampment several days waiting for a chance to get transported to some other point. There are such crowds of soldiers going up the river it keeps the steamboats busy to get us all moved around. It is impossible to make any speed going by land in such a country as this, the roads are so bad. Report says we are going to Alabama. What the prospect is when we get there

¹³ Agnes McMillan was one of the Wilson cousins, her mother being a sister of John Wilson.

we know little about. Of one thing we may be pretty sure that is if there is fighting to be done the Iowa Brigade will get their share of it. General Lauman¹⁴ is bound to get his own name up if his men do pay for it. He is a very brave man and runs more risk than any of his men. He seemed to be as much at home when the battle was at its heat as if he had been in no danger. Such a man can see what ought to be done in any emergency. The river is so high the gunboats are getting much further up than they expected to have done. I guess if we have good luck there will be something important done here before long.

Savannah, March 16, 1862

You will see by the date that it is some time since I commenced writing this letter and also that it is some further into the wilderness as we call it. As much as we have [seen] of Tennessee it is more like a wilderness than anything else. We left our encampment down the river two days ago and ran up to this place. Here we find a good many boats full of soldiers waiting for further orders. Part of our Brigade is further up the river and the probability is that we will join them if the Rebels in this part of the country show fight. But I need not even guess what place we will go to, for things change so quick there is no telling where we may be ordered. The 2nd, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Iowa Regs. are here at present so that in the next battle if one should come off in this part of the country Iowa will be largely represented.

I received a letter from Mr. Hier today dated Feb. 5th, also one from W. A. Daniels dated March 2d so you see our mail don't find us very regularly. I have not received any answers from home to my letters from Fort Henry or Don-

¹⁴ Colonel J. G. Lauman of the Seventh Iowa Infantry commanded the Fourth Brigade, Second Division.

elson but from Daniels I suppose it is owing to the irregularity of the mails. Frank Thomas received letters from home today. They say you were very uneasy when it was rumored the 14th was cut up. You must not believe rumors that are always circulated at such times. I have been astonished to see how far wrong the newspapers get in giving the details of the taking of Fort Donelson. They got the thing considerably mixed up. The first rumor is never correct. However if you feel as unconcerned in regard to our safety as we do ourselves you will get along.

I am glad to see the way the Army in this part of the country is being pushed along. If things are as brisk in every other division the Secesh will have to do better than they have done or they will soon be used up. Going through the country, sometimes on foot sometimes on the steamboats is, although our accommodations are pretty rough, very much to my liking. I have enjoyed myself more since we left St. Louis than I could have expected. The rainy weather is the only uncomfortable weather we have. I got a good oil cloth Secesh blanket at Fort Donelson so it don't trouble me much. The weather is quite warm, the leaves are coming out on the trees. I went on a ramble through the fields today and going through a peach orchard I plucked some blossoms which I will put in some of my letters and send home. We were not paid last pay day but I have money enough and can get anything I want except postage stamps. I have ten or twelve yet. When they are gone I don't know how I will get more without they come from home.

The change of climate and irregular living has given a good many of the boys the diarrhea which has pulled them down some, otherwise the general health is good. The Wolf Creek boys are all in good health and spirits. I could not be in a more sociable, well behaved crowd than I am in

at present which is something when far from home. I have excellent health all the time which is the greatest blessing where there [is] little chance of taking care of the sick.

I believe I have not mentioned that our Major,¹⁵ thinking discretion, turned and ran down the hill out of harm the last day of the Battle. He was not present the first day. He has since resigned and has gone home. Probably one or two others will follow his example if they think we will soon get into another fight. It is the privilege of commissioned officers to do so at any time while the rest of us have to take it as it happens. Their places will be filled by better men. I am glad to state that our Col. is all we could wish both in the battle and in the camp. He takes good care of his Reg. and gives them all the privileges consistent with strict discipline. Our Co. officers are as good as we could have, so that we are used like men. The officers don't get any more respect while off duty than any other [men] while on duty their orders are obeyed with good will. There is scarcely any quarreling and no drunkenness, so we are all things considered getting along very well. So I will finish, wishing you as well and as happy as I am.

I remain your affectionate son

Pittsburg Landing, March 24th, 1862

Dear Brother:

I received your letter today dated Feb. 28. One week ago I received a letter from W. A. Daniels dated March 2nd so you see the mail is not very regular up this way. Today we have plenty of letters and newspapers, the first for ten days. We are at present getting ready as near as we can guess to make an advance on the Rebels a short distance

¹⁵ Hiram Leonard was Major in the Fourteenth Iowa at this time. He resigned on February 26, 1862. There seem to have been many officers unprepared for leadership.

from this place.¹⁶ The possession of the railroad some twelve or fifteen miles from this place is doubtless the next object in view. There are various rumors of the force of the enemy. The Cavalry bring in some prisoners nearly every day some of which say we will find strong opposition others say they are not confident [of] being able to hold out against us.

It is very slow getting a large army moved while the roads are so bad. There has been so much rain the streams are all very high and the teams often get fast in mud on the highest ground. You can imagine the times where the roads [are] full of teams for four or five miles, mostly six mules. Sometimes I have seen three or four of the mules down and the wagon hub deep besides. We are at present camped about a mile from the Landing. You can go down any time of the day and see any amount of runaway teams and all kinds of sprees among the mules and their drivers. There is more waste in all kinds of property belonging [to] Uncle Sam than would break up any other uncle in the country. However if we do make sad work among mules, horses, &c, the necessity of the case requires it. We got some splendid mules at Fort Donelson, enough to put in the place of those that were worn out. Our teamsters were not slow to exchange their worst for the best they could find. The other day some of the scouts came across a planter who had his crop of cotton on hand yet. The teams went out and brought in 24 bales. They help themselves to corn, hay, beef, cattle, &c, where the owners are Secesh which is mostly the case in this vicinity, although [in] some places the people seem to be for the Union.

We have been very idle for some time, laying on the

¹⁶ The Confederates, however, were making plans of their own and did not wait for this attack. During the battle which followed the attack on Pittsburg Landing and Shiloh, the Fourteenth Iowa lost heavily in killed and wounded and even more heavily in prisoners. Among the prisoners was Peter Wilson.

steamboat and in camp one place and another but probably it will all be made up before long. When we leave this place we will very likely have some irregular times both in eating and sleeping but it won't be as cold as when we were at Donelson which is one advantage although the spring advances very slowly. It is not so warm now as it was some weeks ago. We got along comfortably without stoves which owing to the roads we could not haul any farther. We always camp in the timber and build rousing fires when it is cold. We have plenty to eat such as it is. The only thing we would like that we can't get is bread. As a substitute we have crackers, something like we used to eat in the Cora Linn.¹⁷ They would do very well if we ever got hungry enough but we have so little to do it gives us a poor appetite for such hard "shingles", as they are called. When we go on a march they have a different taste altogether.

I came across George Conor the other day and had a long talk with him. He told me Steve went to Texas after he left Ohio and he is of [the] opinion he is somewhere alive yet. George was in the three months service in Virginia and at present belongs to the 2[nd] Ohio Zouaves. He likes soldiering first-rate but has not been in any battles yet. Robert Kirkpatrick is here. His Reg. as they came up the river the other day was fired into by some straggling Secesh, two were killed and two wounded, which is their first experience although they have been through a good part of Missouri. They think they are some pumpkins. I guess they will get their hand tried before long. As a general thing the Reg. that has had the hardest fight has the least to say. Some of the Regs. that never lost a man at Donelson do some very tall bragging. It is fun for us to hear some of them tell us about things that we knew a little about

¹⁷ Possibly the boat on which the Wilson family came to America in 1851. Both James and Peter would have remembered the crossing.

ourselves. Lauman's Brigade is willing to give the privilege of attacking to some other the next time but chance has more to do with that than anything else.

The 2nd, 7th, and 14th would, if consolidated, make one full Reg. The 8th and the Sharpshooters are with us. The 8th is about nine hundred strong. It is likely they will give us as much to do as if we were all full Regs. The other Iowa Brigade is all full Regs. with the exception of the Third. I guess some of the best or at least as good troops as the country affords are in this expedition. We have the same Artillery used at Donelson besides some other batteries. They may be of more use the next time than they were at that place.

I see by the papers that we received today that the Ninth Iowa has been badly cut up and Frank Heath among the mortally wounded. It will be more than we could reasonably hope for if he is the only Buckingham boy that loses his life before the war is concluded. It is the general opinion among the soldiers that two or three months or perhaps less will finish the fighting so the tale will soon be told. We are within a short distance of important events up this way but we are confident of success. I think our generals intend to move cautiously and surely. It will take a good many Secesh, more than we are likely to find in this part, to beat us but there is no telling who may get killed in the coming contest. There is something in getting used to anything. We look forward with as much indifference as if we were at home probably more.

I am glad you get along so well with your work and your other affairs. We were not paid last pay day. I don't think we will get paid off until the war is over if it looks like coming to a conclusion. Send me some stamps when you write. We can get any thing here from the Sutler but them. Give my respects to the Hartshorns and as my letter is

long enough I will finish for the present. Your affect
Brother,

Monterey¹⁸ May 17, 1862

Dear father:

After being six weeks in the Southern Confederacy so-called I have so much to write I scarcely know what to begin with. In the first place the most of our Reg. were taken prisoners after fighting hard all day at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing. I was sick with some kind of a fever when the battle commenced so that by the time we got to Memphis I was about used up. I was taken to the hospital while the Reg. was sent to Tuscallusca [Tuscaloosa], Alabama. The Wolf Creek boys were all taken but Gaston. They were in good health and as good spirits as could be expected. I spent three weeks in the hospital. I found many friends and was well treated. There are a great many union men in Memphis and women too. The latter brought me many good things and gave me considerable money, clothes, &c. As soon as I was well I was removed from the hospital to the guardhouse where I staid two weeks when I, in company with 30 more prisoners from Arkansas, was started for Columbus, Mississippi. We made the trip in five days only, some 500 miles. We had a good chance to see the country and its inhabitants.

We staid only two days at Columbus, when an order came from Beauregard¹⁹ to parole all the prisoners. We took an oath not to fight any more until regularly exchanged. We then started for Corinth and in due time arrived at that place. We were passed through the lines with a flag of truce and conducted to General Halleck's quarters. Here

¹⁸ In Tennessee, eight miles from Corinth.

¹⁹ This was General P. G. T. Beauregard, who succeeded General Albert S. Johnston as commander of the Confederate army at Shiloh.

we were told that we would be exchanged in a few days and were sent to this place some five miles from the army and 8 miles from Corinth. This place is being fitted up for a hospital to put the wounded in after the battle which is expected every day. I don't think the exchange of prisoners will take place until after the battle so I will not be in this time. I am not very well satisfied with the way they have done in my absence. The sneaking, runaway cowards of four Regs. have been put together consisting of the 8th, 12th, & 14th Iowa and the 58th Ill. The new Reg. is made up of the poorest fighting men in the said Regs. The best part of the Regs. were taken prisoners.

May 19, 1862

There is heavy skirmishing going on every day. Our forces are advancing every day. The heavy siege guns are planted. There is no doubt but the battle will come off soon. The result is pretty certain in my mind. I have had some opportunity of guessing at the resources of the Rebels and my opinion is that if they are defeated at Corinth the fighting is pretty much over. Time will soon tell. It is more than likely if we whip them this time we paroled prisoners will be sent home or discharged. However it is impossible to tell how things will go. I have not had a chance to go to my Reg. to get my letters that might have arrived after we were taken nor have I much prospect of getting there. Things are conducted very strict here at present and will be until the battle is fought.

I need not say much about the Battle of Pittsburg Landing as you have seen the accounts of it already. My opinion is that if we had not been surprised we would not have suffered so terribly. On Sabbath, our Brigade being camped some two miles from where the fight commenced, we formed and marched out quickly to the scene of action. We formed

in line of battle just in time to meet the enemy. The first Reg. we fought we exchanged about 20 rounds when they ran pell mell leaving many dead, wounded, guns, and their flag. We were equally successful with three other Regs. Our loss was not heavy owing to our having the advantage in the ground. Our great mistake was in not falling back in line with the other Reg. Just about sundown there came up another Reg. in front of us. We had exchanged 12 or 15 rounds with them when another opened fire on us from behind and a third advanced from the direction of our own lines. Our retreat was cut off, our men were falling fast, so we had to surrender.

I don't know that I may be here long enough to have a letter directed to this place. I will write again soon, you need not write until you hear from me again. It is not very pleasant to be in the position I am in at present but as soon as the battle is over I will know how it will be, so I must wait patiently which I took lessons in while in the land of Dixie. Give my best wishes to all and as my letter is long enough I will finish for the present your Affect Son,

Monterey, May 31st, 62

Dear Sister:

It is but a few days since I wrote you but as I am not very busy I may as well scratch a few lines occasionally. I hardly know what to write that would be of interest. The papers give you the war news and [as] I am six or eight miles from Corinth I can tell only by the sound of the cannon and the reports of the ambulance drivers how the times are over at Camp today. We are told that Corinth is taken but how much bloodshed there has been we have not learned. I guess from the fact that few wounded have been where preparation has been made for a great many, the fighting has been light compared with Pittsburg Landing.

But as I have no more to write I will finish. Be sure and write and I will be prompt in answering. Give my respects [to] inquiring friends and wishing good bye I remain, your Affect Brother

Monterey, May 31st, 1862

Dear father:

I again take this opportunity of sending you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I believe I wrote that I had been over to see Gaston and the rest of the boys.²⁰ When I returned I found it so tiresome to have nothing to do that I thought I would go and help take care of the sick and wounded in the Hospital so for the last week I have spent my time in making the occupants of one tent comfortable. There was one man in the tent shot in the leg that was very badly off. He lingered some three weeks from the time he was wounded and then died. The rest of my charges, 13 in number, are all doing first-rate. We have the very best of physicians here. There are some six hundred patients and the deaths have only been two or three per day while in Memphis the deaths in the same number of patients averaged from 20 to thirty, sometimes 35 daily.

Our men seem to stand the Southern climate better than the natives. I don't think the weather is much warmer here than in Iowa. Since I have got my liberty and had a chance to exercise I feel that I could work here as much as in Iowa but as we have been looking for thousands of wounded at the great expected Battle of Corinth I may as well give all that we know about the last few days proceedings. Several days ago the big guns commenced booming and kept it up almost constantly day and night. Yesterday the breast-

²⁰ The letter telling of this trip is not included in this collection. John Gaston was not captured and was probably with the part of the regiment still in service.

works of the opposing armies were only 80 rods apart. Our men had made the last advance in the night and threw up their breastworks. Today the enemy is in full retreat beyond Corinth and our men in full pursuit. How the race will end is impossible to tell. At any rate Corinth is taken and I think Beauregard will have hard work to keep his army together for another stand. I wish the Rebels had fought at Corinth. They would have got defeated and the war would have been brought to a close sooner than otherwise, but my sheet is most full.

I did not like to stay here when I first came. Halleck promised to exchange us in a few days but I don't believe we will be exchanged at all. I now feel pretty much at home here. It is much more comfortable here than with the army. My pay is now 20 dollars per month and we have things as comfortable as we could wish. I would rather not be in the service, since I cannot be a soldier any more, but although the Government has no claim on me until exchanged no one can go down the river without a pass so I must stay here until Halleck gets time [to] attend to our case. While over to the Reg. I received a letter from Flora that had been written after you knew I was a prisoner. That was the only letter I have received since the battle and there was little in it. I don't know whether my letters get home but if you get the half of them you will do [well]. So for the present I will close,

Monterey, June 3rd, 1862

Dear father:

Although I have written several times since coming from the land of cotton and niggers and have not yet received an answer still I suppose you will be pleased to hear from me pretty often. I have got somewhat content to stay here although I would much rather be in the old Reg. as it was

before the battle but knowing that our Reg. is not likely to be exchanged there is no use in my making any calculations of ever taking a musket again. Here we get 25 cents per day extra for taking care of the sick and wounded. If a man is very sick or severely wounded when brought in he soon dies nine times out of ten; if not very sick he is not troublesome to attend to. There are two of us to attend to 14 men. When I commenced ten days ago two were very low from the severity of their wounds, now they are both dead and the others are doing very well. Some are well enough to go to their Regts.

I see by the papers that the Federal prisoners captured at Bull Run and other places in McClellan's department and paroled by the Rebels have been sent home. Why those in Halleck's department are detained I cannot understand. The oath we have taken keeps us from doing any duty but I don't think the oath is understood as broken until we go into the ranks again. It would be impossible to even go to farming without assisting in an indirect way to carry on the war. At any rate if I have to stay here it is as well to be content and make the most of it. A soldier is liable to mishaps of every sort and when compared with others my luck has been good. There are so many that started from home in good health and spirits that will come back if at all ruined in health or crippled or something of the kind. I have great reason to be thankful that through so many dangers so far I have been spared. My health is as good as when I left home and I see no reason why it is not as healthy here as in Iowa.

June 5th 62

We have been so busy for two days in consequence of the arrival of so many more sick that I have not had time to finish. The army is doubtless soon to follow up the Rebels. They have sent back all their men unfit for duty. There are

a good many here that are worn out with diarrhea and such like that will soon be all right again. Then there are a good many that are playing off, as they call it, so as to shirk, and keep out of danger. There must be some 2000 patients here in all but as much as 1500 of them are able to wait on themselves. There are a good many legs and arms taken off every day, but most of the cases die this warm weather. The head surgeon is from Ayrshire and he is the most skillful surgeon in this place. He does all the cutting of legs and arms &c. It is hard to see the destruction of human beings that goes on from day to day, but one gets used to almost any thing.

Part of the released prisoners now at this place start for home tomorrow morning. Why we don't all go at present I don't know. I think it is the intention to discharge us all sooner or later, but there is no telling when. I am quite willing to take a discharge seeing I can't be a soldier any more, but it may be months before I get it if I have as good health as at present. I don't care whether I get it or not at present. I guess it would be rather tough to go to work again at this time of the year. I hardly know where to have my letters sent to. The Reg. is getting so far from here it will take a letter a long time to get to me from there and I may not be here long. I suppose you may direct as before and Gaston will send them to me.

I have not received any yet but it is hardly time. I don't know that I have anything more worth writing so for the present I will close your affect son,

Monterey, June 9th, 62

Dear brother:

I again take my pen to write a few lines, not that I have any thing worth writing but it is so long since I have heard from home I would like above all things to get a letter. The

Reg. is getting so far from this place that if at all it will take a long time for a letter to reach me by going that way. There is no telling how long I may be here. This is the General Hospital now and a letter will come here quicker than to the Reg. I did not expect to be here long when we came here but now I expect to be here perhaps all summer. I would as soon be here as any other place if I only knew where to have my letters sent to. C. W. Burright²¹ is here with me. We tent together and attend to the same lot of sick men. Corniel and myself keep a kind of a grocery. We have tobacco, lemons, &c, and sometimes do quite a prosperous business on a small scale. Small profits is the custom of the country. We sell 10 cent plugs at 25 cents. The next time I go to war it will be as a Sutler. They make more money in one day than D. Connel²² does in a year.

It is not likely that any of the letters sent [to] the Reg. will get here as soon as the answer to this if sent direct to this place so you will please write me how you have got along for the last three months and whether you received the money I sent, how the crops, cattle, &c, get along, and how all the folks are. I don't think that we will be sent home although it is what is our right. There are so many of the soldiers getting used up they are bound to keep us at something. They talk of sending us north to guard prisoners when they can spare us here. There is no use in guessing what they will do with us. For my part I don't care. I don't think we will be sent to our Reg. any more as we won't be exchanged. If the old 14th was in the field again I would like to be with it. I have heard that there has been a large number of prisoners paroled at Huntsville, Alabama. That would be the place our boys would be likely to

²¹ Cornelius W. Burright was also from Tama County. He was nineteen and a musician.

²² Daniel Connell kept a store at Buckingham.

be sent to from where they were. If any of them have written home let me know where they are and what they are doing. Give my love to all and as I have nothing more worth writing at present I remain, Your Affect Brother,

P. Wilson

Please write to Peter Wilson, Co G, 14th Iowa, General Hospital, Monterey, Tennessee.

G H

Monterey, June 25th, 62

Dear David:

Your very welcome letter came to hand a few days ago. It was nearly three months since I had heard from home. I got tired of waiting here for letters, so I went to the Reg. two miles south of Corinth and found only four of Co. G remaining. I got three new letters and a lot of old ones. The boys have been marching and doing so much duty since they left Pittsburg Landing they are now dirty, ragged, and lousy, but they may have more time to get fixed up now. The Union Brigade is not much like the old 14th was but it makes little difference to me as I never expect to belong to it. I came back to the Hospital which is about broken up. The sick have been sent home, most of the tents have been pulled down. We get our pay tomorrow. The most of the prisoners that came here have gone home. What are left have to report to their Regts., get their pay, and I think get a furlough until exchanged. We may not get it but we will do no duty in the Reg. until we are exchanged. I think there is little doubt that you will see me home in a week or two. If I go by Long Grove it may be longer but it may be things will turn up so I don't get home at all at this time.

It is rather a poor place here to make any calculations but I have learned to take things just as they come so it makes little difference to me how it goes. I have been doing

little since I have been [here] with the exception of a week or so when there were so many sick here. Since I got rid of my sick boys have been acting Wardmaster that is to see that the nurses²³ attend to their respective charges &c. There have been about 160 deaths here within a month. I often assist in digging graves and burying. They bury them without a coffin sometimes as many as ten in one grave, two or three deep. It looks rather hard but it is the best that can be done under the circumstances.

I don't know of anything more worth writing, so I will finish and go out with Corniel and get some plums this afternoon. [This] is a good country for fruit. Apples and peaches are nearly ripe and there are large orchards of both all over Tennessee and Mississippi. It seems there are some new settlers coming near father's. I am afraid there won't be grass enough for all their cattle but I like to hear of more settlers if they are the right stripe. Give my best wishes to all and bidding good bye I remain,

General Hospital, Monterey, Tennessee, July 5

Dear father and mother:

Contrary to my expectations we are still in this place. The sick and doctors have gone, the tents have been pulled down some time ago, and no one is here now but the guards and about 20 of the paroled prisoners. We have nothing to do but I suppose they want to keep us here until the tents and hospital stores are hauled away. This place is about 12 miles from Corinth and the same distance from Pittsburg Landing. There would be nothing to hinder a party of the enemy from making a sudden attack and destroying a considerable amount of government property so they keep us here so as to make the surrounding Secesh think there is

²³ The nurses were apparently all enlisted men assigned to that duty with no training for it.

considerable force here. However a few days at farthest must finish our stay in this place. Whether we have to stay for any length of time at any other point we don't know but we won't do any more duty until exchanged. I understand by the papers that we will be mustered out of the service but although that may be the intention it may be a good while before we get through.

It is sometimes provoking to be obliged [to] spend the summer in total idleness while I know you have so much to do at home. I suppose I might as well [have] come home long ago²⁴ but I believe now that I have waited so long I will go according to orders, if that don't conflict with my parole. If it does I will raise a row for the first time since I have been in the army but I don't anticipate any trouble. The mail don't come here any more, but I will go over to the Union Brigade and get my letters if we stay here much longer. If we get to Corinth in a few days I will then go to the Reg. at any rate for a few days.

We spent a very quiet 4th of July yesterday. After partaking of a good breakfast (and here let me state that we have the very best living, with good ale three times per day which is very healthy as far as my experience goes) we started as usual for a walk into the country. We took along a pail and filled it with blackberries. This is the best fruit country I have seen but that is about all it is good for. We brought home the berries and spent the rest of the day as usual in playing checkers, pitching horseshoes, &c.

It is surprising how easy it is to get used to doing nothing. The most of the boys that are here have got com-

²⁴ The army authorities did not, it seems, know what to do with the paroled soldiers. They were unwilling to compel them to do combat service, but they did not wish to encourage surrender and parole by sending such paroled prisoners home, while others were fighting. Officers, however, seem to have generally connived at visits home by paroled men and punishments were light if any were imposed.

pletely used to loafing. I am still in hopes of getting home in time for to help in harvest time but I may be disappointed. It is better to stay until they see fit to discharge us than to have the expense of coming back again. I want an honorable discharge if it don't come for some time but I think this is the last letter I will have to write from this place. I will write again when I find what is the will of General Halleck in regard to us. I think a week at most and by that time we will know just what is to be our destination. This is such an out of the way place we don't get much reliable news. The report now is that Richmond is ours but we don't know whether it is true. The troops at Corinth are in very good health, the men look better than hard working men in the north. For my part I don't suffer any more inconvenience from the heat than in Iowa. The nights are cool and there are no mosquitoes. A tent is a splendid thing to sleep in, much better than a house. Instead of sleeping on the ground here we have cots which is of course much better.

I don't know that I need prolong my letter. There is nothing going on here to make it interesting. The returning farmers have kept quiet so far, but it is easy to see that the most of them are still Secesh at heart. It is only because they know the consequences that they keep quiet. They have suffered enough now to learn them a lesson they will not soon forget. The fences between Pittsburg Landing and Corinth have been used for wood by the soldiers, most of the stock has been killed, everything looks forlorn and desolate. I guess the government will have to feed the inhabitants next winter or they must starve as they are raising nothing this season. But my letter is long enough. I should have written sooner but I expected to have been gone from this place and still look for it every day, for the present I will close,

CAMPLIFE²⁵

A soldier's life is very gay,
Time passes pleasantly away.
Of one thing he gets his fill,
That is boys fall in & drill.

A common game is that of cards,
To pass the time in all the wards.
But dinner hour only means
Fall in boys and get your beans.

When it rains we lie and sleep
Or closely in our bunks do keep.
Five times a day they call the roll
And put on guard each absent poll.

We sometimes dance while others sing,
No female form to fill the ring.
We boys are gay and faces bright,
The tap sounds, out goes the light.

We have fought some great sham battles,
Around our head no bullet rattles.
We have prayed to have a tramp,
If only to some other camp.

Reveille, guard mount, morning drill,
Then battalion whether we will,
Then dress parade is sure to come —
We might as well be guards of home.

Months have passed, in camp we stay,
The same old routine every day,
We brush our clothing just for fun,
For a change we scour our gun.

²⁵ These verses were included with the Peter Wilson letters and were in his handwriting but there is nothing to indicate that he composed them.

If Uncle Sam would send in orders
To march us to the rebel borders,
We would be anxious for the fight
And not stay here another night.

If all winter we stay here,
Uncle Sam will pay full dear.
We'll shoulder arms, draw our pay,
And never fight a single day.

One of Uncle Sam's boys

Corinth, Miss., July 12.

Dear brother:

We have got through at Monterey and have reported at Corinth. We don't know yet what disposition will be made of us. It is published in the papers that all paroled prisoners are to report at different stations, those of Iowa, Ill., & Minnesota at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Probably we will be sent there to do duty of some kind. I have not concluded to do duty as they want us to until exchanged but I don't like to go against orders. I believe it is best to take things cool for the present. They cheated us out of part of our hospital pay at Monterey, but I don't mind that much as we did not earn our board while there. At present we are not doing anything so we are not getting any thing but our regular pay.

John Gaston has got his discharge on account of ill health. He will start for home tomorrow. I have sent my dress coat and a coat and cap for Andrew, also two likenesses found by a dead Secesh at Pittsburg Landing. One of the likenesses has the case broken. I would like you would get a new case put on it. John has been sick a long time and has lost most of his clothes. I gave him one of my blankets and an overcoat. You will see what kind of clothes

we have when he gets home. The coat I gave him was one that some soldier threw away. Thousands of such were thrown away between Pittsburg and Corinth. You will know when he gets home and can get the things I have sent by him. I have no use for my dress coat here as I have coats enough without it.

I don't know at present when I will get any more pay. There is two months pay due the 1st of this month but we may not get paid for another two months. I have fifteen dollars now so I guess I can spare 50\$ next pay day if the[y] don't pay us for four months. It don't make much difference how long they put it off. The pay is sure to come sometime. I don't know of anything more worth writing. I will let you know where we are sent next or whether we are kept here. There is no use of making any calculations of going home. That don't seem to be the order of the day. I would like very well to get home for a time but I am not homesick by any means. I think I can stay my time out quite content if I keep my health as well as I have done. Just ask Gaston how I look and I guess he will report favorably. I have never felt as well in Iowa as I do at present, but I will not add. Give my love to all and for the present I remain, your affect brother,

Benton Barracks, Sept. 5th

Dear father and mother:

It is needless to make excuses for not writing sooner.²⁶ I just arrived today and nothing is wrong on account of my absence although some of the boys have been punished for going home, and all that are now absent will be when they come. We are not exchanged yet and there is no telling when we will be. We have nothing but guard duty to do

²⁶ Peter Wilson had been home in the interval between the letter dated July 12 and this one dated September 5.

and very little of that, only being on duty about once per month. The boys are in good health and spirits. I was sorry to find that Dewitt Southwick was dead and another that you were not acquainted with is also gone.

I spent a week at Long Grove, being assured when I got to Davenport there was no use for hurry. The folks are well and Aunt has another little girl. I got acquainted with Mr. Allan & his family, spent a very pleasant week. My health is good again and all things considered I have no reason to complain. I don't know of anything more worth writing so for the present I remain your affect son,

Benton Barracks, Sept. 18th

Dear brother:

It seems hardly worth while for me to attempt to write a letter seeing there is absolutely nothing worth writing but as I have nothing else to do I will try and fill up with something. A fellow will get tired playing marbles, chequers, and so forth and will go and vary the routine of games by writing even if he hardly knows who to write to or what to write. It seems strange that the government keeps so many men here doing nothing. If they had been mustered out at first they would mostly have gone into the new Regts. Now I don't know whether it is because I did not notice it, but I never saw so many green officers as are in some of the new Regs. There is fun for us to see them go through their maneuvers. It is rather a funny operation for one man to teach another what he don't understand himself but time will improve officers as well as men.

My friend, Mark Thomson of Long Grove, originally of the 2nd Iowa, wounded at Pittsburg Landing, [was] sent home and as his arm was slow in getting well, General Baker gave him a Recruiting Commission. He raised a Co., was elected Cap., and is the only Cap. in [the] 20th

Iowa that had any experience. His Co. is Co. C. He has acted Col. on dress parade and sometimes drills the Reg. on battalion drill. So much for getting wounded instead of being taken prisoner. There are hundreds of men here on parole that are every way qualified for Co. officers, but their hands are tied. In the meantime there is one consolation, if they have no chance for advancement they have little chance of getting hurt if they don't break one another's necks in some madcap row. So many idle men must have some vent for their mischievous propensities and nightly until late the quarters of the paroled men are noisy with all kinds of fun, music, and dancing. We have plenty and to look at our boys enjoying themselves so well one would think they had never been on half rations in Dixie at least. But we get no word from or of those yet in the hands of the Rebels. They may come around by Washington and you may hear of them before we do. Today is a regular Missouri rainy day and as we can't get out most of the boys are at their usual games. It is a great way to keep men but I guess we can stand it, although when we get paid a good many will skedaddle for home again.

I received a letter from Long Grove today. They are all well although the letter had little that would interest you however much it might interest me. One thing I must say you need not repeat, there are plenty of young ladies round the grove and to think that I might as well [have] stayed there two or three weeks longer and did not is rather provoking. But let it go, I may profit by past experience and take more time at my next visit. Benton Barracks is being put in order for the new Regts. so we look for more Iowa boys before long. The news from Maryland is cheerful. I think the Rebels have done their best and the tide must turn against them soon. Uncle tells me that a good many men heretofore sound in wind and limb have suddenly

picked up a hileh.²⁷ I suppose from what Frank tells me such things happen nearer home. I hope some such may get drafted and do their share of fighting. I don't for a moment doubt their abilities; just put a Reg. of Vols. behind them with orders to shoot them if they run. Poor souls, theirs is a hard lot, I pity them from the bottom of my heart.

I see in this morning's paper the prisoners at Camp Chase are being organized to go against the Indians. The Wisconsin men that were here have gone home today for the same purpose. I would not be surprised if they would send us the same way. They could not please us better than by forming us into Regts. and giving us something of the kind to do. I would like very much to see the country up that way and that would be a good opportunity. Although there would very likely be long marches and so forth to encounter, I would much rather go there than lay here idle, much as I like to have nothing to do. I have not received any letters from home since I left, but look for some soon.

The 22nd Iowa has just come in and I find the Tama Co. boys are not in it. It is like the other new Regts. from Iowa, composed of as good material as the country can furnish. Like the others they have Enfield rifles. I believe the Iowa men are as a general thing better equipped than any other troops that visit Benton Barracks. But my letter is already too long so I will close for the present. I will write to some of you as often as once per week,

Your affect brother

Benton Barracks, Sept. 24th, 1862

Dear father:

The mail came in from Buckingham today and as yet no letter for me. I had expected one this time but the dis-

²⁷ A hileh was a Scotch term for a hobble or limp.

appointment is lessened by hearing the news from the boys. I have letters from Corinth & Long Grove. I have written to Scotland and requested them to write to you instead of [to] my address, not knowing where we may be by the time a letter would get here. The prospect of being exchanged seems to grow less while the prospect of anything but staying where we are is dubious enough. There is some prospect of being sent against the Indians but that is not certain. The boys are in good health and of course their spirits are ditto. We have been mustered for pay and expect to be paid soon. There will be a general stampede for home after pay day of those that have not been home, but I guess I will stay this time as there will doubtless be something done with us before long. I think if they have any use for us on the frontiers there we will go sooner or later, but it is all guess work on my part. We may be here six months for any thing I know or care.

It is well that I came here when I did as we settle up for our rations while prisoners and clothes lost in battle & besides it might be a long time before we get any more pay. The names of those absent at this muster have been sent to headquarters. I don't know how it may be with them. I think if I had not come this time I would not [have] gotten my pay for the time I was absent. There is little of interest going on here. There have been several new Regts. from Iowa here but they have gone. There was a Missouri Reg. here that had preachers for field officers. In a speech their Col. made when they received their colors the men pledged themselves not to swear or drink whiskey until he set them the example. I guess some of them will fail in the promise although they are a fine Reg. with such good officers. I don't know of any thing more worthy of note. My health is good as it ever was. I believe I can go farther at a double quick than I could last winter. I think the southern

climate will agree with me first rate now. John Felter is fatter than he was when he left home, the other boys are as usual.

Direct to Paroled prisoner B Bks St. Louis, Missouri

Benton Barracks, Oct. 22nd, 1862

Dear brother:

I received your letter today and your being so busy is sufficient excuse for not writing sooner. For my part I have nothing to do but follow the bent of my own inclinations and certainly I keep myself going at something. The most of our time is spent to but little purpose as we are hardly warranted in making preparations for a long stay. I see by the papers our officers are released on parole and gone home on thirty days leave of absence. I don't know what to think about our prospects of getting exchanged. Sometimes we think one way and sometimes another. There is no certainty of either one thing or another. There are but few of the paroled men here at present, the most of them have gone home. Their names have been stricken from the rolls and they are reported deserters. I guess they will be all right if they stay away long enough. If they should come back now they would be fined as that is the penalty now instead of the guardhouse.

Since writing so much I learned that the 24th Iowa was down at the Levee on their way down the river. I immediately started to see the boys. I found Cap. Clark²⁸ at the gangway. He had the interesting post of Officer of the Day and was busy about one thing and another. He showed me where to find his Co. and I proceeded to the place. There I found A. Felter, John Gross, W. Wilber, John Mulki, Snow.²⁹ I spent but a short time with them as it was late

²⁸ This was Captain Leander Clark of Buckingham. He was in command of Company E of the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry.

²⁹ Abram H. Feller, John Gross, Ward Wilbur, John Mulcahy, and James M. Snow are listed as members of Company E, Twenty-fourth Iowa. All were from

before I knew they were in town. The boys were in good spirits and in good health. Ward looks as though he would stand it well and make a good soldier. William Beattie was left at Keokuk in the Hospital. The boys are pleased with Capt. Clark. They have Enfield rifles and as far as appearances go they are a good Reg. Somehow I could not help thinking I had seen some of them for the last time. It is all before them, they will learn something of the fortune of war before long. The 28th is expected soon. I will try and see them if they stay in town long enough. When I got back to Camp I found John and Frank³⁰ had just gone to see the boys so they changed their mind since I went out. We expect to get paid soon again as our first year is soon up. I will send you some money this time. My trip home cost me the most of my last four months. I could have sent you twenty or twenty-five this time but I had some notion of coming home so I thought best to wait. I need hardly write to father this week as this is about all I have to write. Give my respects to inquiring friends and for the present I remain your affect brother,

Columbus, Ky., Oct. 25th.

Dear Brother:

As the time of the week for writing home has come round I take the opportunity of letting you know that we are still at Columbus. There seems to be some wire pulling as to where we may go. Col. Shaw don't want to go to Cairo as he cannot take command of the post but perhaps part of the Regt. may go there and part stay here. If you have not sent that box, send it to Cairo. Anyway I can get it from there. John brought 25 lbs. [of] butter and some other

Buckingham.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. III, pp. 826, 830, 860, 882, 895. There is a possibility that this should have been Abram H. Felter, as Peter Wilson wrote it.

³⁰ Probably John R. Felter and Frank Thomas.

fixin's with him. Frank will get some when ours is used. John is keeping well. I think he may get along now. When you send the box write and let me know as I will go to Cairo and get it. I will make arrangements to send you some dried apples and peaches from Ind. by and by. We have had some cold frosty weather here but we are pretty well fixed to keep comfortable.

I have only been on duty once per week since I returned. It seemed rather dry the first week but it is like old times now. You may expect short letters this winter as there is not enough in our local paper, the War Eagle, to fill one letter. I will send a Columbus War Eagle occasionally so you can see the kind of editors they have in the army. I see there are to be 300,000 more men called out. Bully for that. Put it through is the word. If the Democrats had carried the elections there would be opposition to it but now it will work. It seems Rosecrans³¹ is superseded. I thought he was sure to win all the time, but let him go, if he proves unworthy. Every dog has his day and Rose has had his. Frank tells me Mrs. Wm. Provan is dead. Young's folks have had severe trials since they came to Iowa. Lose no time in letting me know how Uncle West comes on in his new harness. Please write soon. Give my respects to Esther.³² Wishing good bye I remain,

Your Brother

Benton Barracks, Oct. 28th, 62

Dear father:

Since writing my last I have received letters from you and James. It had been so long, that is it seemed so long, I was almost out of patience but I guess you have not so much time to spare as I have so in future I will make allow-

³¹ General William S. Rosecrans.

³² James Wilson married Esther Wilbur on May 7, 1863.

ances for such things. I am glad you are getting at the house at last. If it is with you as it is with us you must have had a taste of winter already. We had a slight fall of snow but it is now gone and leaves pleasant weather again. It has been fine weather here for a long time, just enough rain to keep down the dust. This climate is very pleasant when it don't get to raining too much. I had a letter from Jane this week. The girls after the old fashion urge the necessity of my studying so I have commenced Grammar. I don't know as I will make much progress but I can try. This is not the best kind of a place to study. There is so much nonsense going on it takes up the attention—at least mine was always easy taken from any kind of study.

It is reported here that the 24th Reg. was fired into below Cape Girardeau and some killed. It may not be true but the boys expected to have some such scrap before they reached Helena. The 30th Iowa is here at present. It is surprising how many fine men are coming from Iowa. The new Regts. are ahead of the old as far as good-sized men go. I had a letter from a friend in the 20th Iowa the other day. It is down in Mo. near the Arkansas line. He tells me they have had hard times. They have some four hundred sick in the Reg. It is only some five weeks since they left Iowa so you see how camp life takes down the men at first. They don't know how to take things to the best advantage yet and hard marching on hard crackers and sowbelly, as we term pork, is rather more abundant than anything else on the march. I guess if they put us in the field again which there is no apparent prospect of they won't feast us on such if there is any Secesh on the way that has any thing that is better. I hear from our boys at Corinth occasionally. The Union Brigade fought well this time. They lost 115 men killed and wounded.

There is one circumstance worthy of mentioning. There

was a farmer near the camp of the Union Brigade, a pretended Union man. The Union boys guarded his property all summer. Well after the Battle of Corinth and the whole army with the exception of a few sick and some teamsters were gone in pursuit of the Rebels this said farmer gathered some 150 citizens and pitched into the deserted town, but his treachery was short lived. One of the boys that knew him sent a ball through his head at the first fire. Seeing their Major fall, as he was styled, the balance skedaddled for home leaving 5 of their number dead and some more wounded. The resistance was made by some ten or twelve muskets. On the body of the Major was found a muster roll with most of the citizens of the vicinity of Corinth. I guess some of them will swing for their pains. They buried the Major with his hands sticking out—rather hard but he deserves his fate hard as it seems. Such is the kind of men that in nine cases out of ten have had their property guarded so far. I will send you the weekly Democrat. We like it very well here. It is one of the first papers in the country and I suppose it tells truth as much as any. Besides it gives the news from the western army better than any of the eastern papers. Our first year of enlistment will soon be up. There is a list of the Shiloh prisoners that died in the South in one of the St. Louis papers. Among others John E. McClure, Co. G, 14th Iowa, is printed. As there was no such man in our Co. I fear it is John E. McKune.³³ The other boys think so, but perhaps some of the released officers will know. I understand that Frank's partner E. McClaury³⁴ that lived below Toledo is dead. That is four out of our old Mess of eight. I guess it is about as bad all through the Co. and Regiment.

³³ John E. McKune was the soldier who died. See note 3.

³⁴ Edmund McClaury, a paroled prisoner, died at his home in Benton County on October 18, 1862, of disease contracted while a prisoner of war.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 824.

I was out in the country today getting some apples and engaged with a woman, her husband being absent, to come back and help work a week or so at making cider, gathering apples, &c. I don't know how I may like working but I think I will like to make cider. Anyway if I get lazy I can come back to camp. There is no trouble about getting out of camp for a few days at a time as the officers need not know anything about it. We know how to forge passes and never think of getting out in the regular way.

Quite a number of paroled men came in today. They were paroled at Vicksburg. They have the old report of hard fare with the Rebels. They passed through some of the same places that we did and say the crops are very poor. The Rebels are ragged and hungry but they have been so for so long it seems to agree with them. I need not add as my letter is too long now for anything it has that is worth while.

Camp of instruction
Benton Barracks, Nov. 3d, 1862

Dear brother:

I received a short letter from you today. Your prospects seem good and for my own they seem to be after the old fashion. We had a visit from Col. Shaw a few days ago. The old Col. has proved himself to be as good a man as we always supposed him to be. He has seen Governor Kirkwood, got him to use his influence at Washington to get us up to Iowa to stay until exchanged and organised. We don't think that they will succeed in getting us to Iowa as General Curtis³⁵ is opposed to it and the Sect. of War is opposed to it on account of the influence it is supposed to have on others in the field if they knew paroled men were sent home.

³⁵ Samuel R. Curtis of Keokuk, Iowa. For a sketch of his career, see Gallaher's *Samuel Ryan Curtis* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XXV, pp. 331-358.

The Col. tells us the Shiloh prisoners stand second to no troops in the service in the estimation of the military authorities at Washington and the officers are in consequence furloughed until exchanged. I might inform you that part of the 23 Missouri have been here acting as outside guards round the camp. The fighting part of the Reg. was taken when we were, the runaways sent here to do guard duty as they were fit for nothing else. The Col. took pains to arrange so they would have no more to do with us. He put a stop to [incomplete] He gave them his mind at Headquarters in his old way about having such d——d cowards over his boys. The Col. says we must not think ourselves disgraced in the least if we should stay here to the end of the war.

He maintains that if others had maintained their position as they ought [at Shiloh] the victory would have been ours and no prisoners taken. He advises us to stay here and take things cool as in the way we are situated he can't send [us] home in direct violation of the law but those now at home he advises to stay for the present as he will do his best to keep them from being punished. If he cannot succeed in getting us to Iowa and the officers here in charge of us insist on punishing the boys for going home he is coming to take charge of us himself so that he is bound to see that we are well used. He says the prospect of being exchanged is not very flattering, still it may come some time. I had a letter from D. Gallagher. He had a letter from his brother and I guess you were wrongly informed about his being the only surviving officer in the Reg. He is all the officer in Co. G however. Our Second Lieut., S. F. Eccles, is dead and Cap. Pemberton³⁶ is trying to resign to get clear of being court martialed. The remainder of the Shiloh prisoners are

³⁶ Captain George Pemberton resigned his commission on July 10, 1862. No explanation of the charge against him is given.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 83.

at Annapolis, Md. Those of the 12th Iowa arrived here today. We expect the balance of our boys in a few days.

I sent some papers to the boys containing a few persimmon seeds. Frank sent some home last year that they succeeded in growing. You put them out in the spring in time to freeze some. The fruit is very good and is plenty not far from camp. We have good weather here yet and unlimited freedom of rambling. Our boys seem to remember their old tricks yet as many a goose and chicken find their way into camp. For my part I can't justify myself in plundering here. It seems too much like stealing, as farmers give us fruit as much as we want and we have plenty to eat of everything we require. I think the way the case now is I won't come home after this pay day as I had intended. The river must soon freeze so it would be expensive coming back again and perhaps we may be ordered home by and by. At any rate I will let well enough alone and try to improve my time as I best can. It is not so unpleasantly cold here and it seems to me I won't much like the Iowa winters again, although snow is no worse than mud. I don't know as I need to write any more at present. My health is very good. I weigh 189 in light clothes, something more than usual with me.

I will write to some of you once per week. Give my respects to inquiring friends, and for the present good bye,
Your affect brother,

Camp of instruction
Benton Barracks, Nov. 12th, 62

Dear Father:

I again take this opportunity of letting you know how we get along. There is little of interest to communicate, the same old nothing over again. If we should be paid this time I would come home but the prospect for being paid

this time is not very good, so I will put it off to the next pay day, that is the first of January. If nothing happens before that time I will come then, as there is little or nothing being done in the way of punishment to those that are coming back. The 28th Iowa Reg. has just gone down the River. We went down and spent the day with them. We saw Connel[l]³⁷ and the rest. They were in good spirits and quite glad to see us.

John Connell seems to make a good officer as the men speak well of him. He said he would like to have us go along. I would have no objections if we were exchanged but as it is I believe I will let well enough alone. If the 14th is organised again I would not leave it for any new Reg. let who will command it. Col. Shaw is as good a man as need be and when we take the field again we expect to have a full Reg. The chances for taking the field again are not very promising. The 28th have the old musket. It is good enough at short range but is too clumsy. I think likely they will have something to do before long, the way they are sending troops to Helena — puts me in mind of the time we went to Pittsburg Landing. Frank had a letter from Abe Felter.³⁸ He says they are fortifying and their pickets were driven in the day he wrote. I see by the papers Grant has moved on Holly Springs with the old army from Corinth. It is situated about 25 miles from Helena across in Miss. Perhaps the army at Helena may cross the river and act in concert with Grant. At any rate there is likely to be fighting in the West soon. I hear little from the east. I guess it will be as it was last winter, all quiet on the Potomac. I have begun to think if something decisive is not done this winter, the Southern Confederacy will become fact. Let it go as it will I hope it may be decided this win-

³⁷ Lieutenant Colonel John Connell is listed as from Toledo, Iowa.

³⁸ See note 29.

ter. If they keep us on parole I guess we can stand it as long as any of them. Still while I am a soldier I would as soon be in the field as here. The Col. is gone to bring the remains of the prisoners from Maryland. We expect them in a few days. Stokes³⁹ is discharged and will leave for home soon. I need not continue as news is scarce so no more at present from your affect son

Camp of instruction

Benton Barracks, Nov. 14th, 62

Dear Brother:

As the boys have concluded to go home you will wonder why I did not come with them. In the first place I think we will be sent to Iowa before long and I can come then without so much expense. If we are not sent I want to get paid once more before I come up. I have lent some money to the boys and I must be on hand at pay day to get it. We expected to have been paid before this time or I would not have lent any money but as it is there is little difference as my time would not be worth much at home now.

General Prentice⁴⁰ visited us yesterday. He told us the reason we were not exchanged was because the Rebels outnumbered us in prisoners and consequently they have no men to give for us, something we suspected before. He says he is going to have the right version of [the] Battle of Shiloh published so as to justify his course on that day and clear up the lies that have been to some extent in circulation. He says we will be the first exchanged and he wants to command us again. I guess he was puffing us a little.

³⁹ *The Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. II, p. 840, records the discharge of Eleazer Stookes of Tama County on November 8, 1862. The name, apparently, should have been Stoakes.

⁴⁰ This was probably Major General Benjamin M. Prentiss, who had also been captured at Shiloh and had been exchanged in October, 1862. He had been ordered to report for duty to General Grant.

Few of us are anxious about getting into the field again. For my part I care but little how it goes. I am ready for anything, even to put for Iowa as soon as I finger some more greenbacks.

Charles Baily⁴¹ has just got back. He got the Governor to intercede for him and his pay is all right. That is what they propose to do with those that are at home, stop their pay. I don't much think they will, however. I need not write any more as you can talk to Frank so no more from your Brother

Camp of instruction

Benton Barracks, Nov. 20th, 62

Dear Brother:

I sent you a few lines by Frank and as the time of the week for writing home has returned I will scratch a few lines more not that there is much worth writing but I suppose it is as well to write, news or not. I am not making much progress in grammar as there is too much mischief going on in which I am easy induced to join. Then my teacher is gone and perhaps I may soon follow. Sometimes I think I will come home but it seems hardly worth while considering the probability of being suddenly called upon again. I begin to wish more than ever for the organisation of the Regt. as then a fellow will know his destiny that is he would not be in uncertainty of how he should act.

If the boys are content to stay at home it is more than I think they will. For my part I think I can stay here more content than if I was at home considering the circumstances but for all that I may start as soon as pay day is over. I received your letter today and some letters that were dated Oct. 29th. They must have laid by somewhere. I am glad to

⁴¹ The roster of the Fourteenth Iowa does not include the name of Charles Baily. There was a Charles L. Bailey from Toledo in the Tenth Iowa Infantry, but he is not recorded as a paroled prisoner of war.

know that you get on so well. You must be very busy. Here it is not so. We have adopted the system fashionable among the upper ten of breakfast at nine, dinner at four, so you see we are somewhat late up in the morning.

I had a letter from Lieut. Gallagher. He says he thought I was dead, as he never heard from me after they left Memphis until he got home. He promises to come and see us soon and says he is ready for Dixie as soon as we are organized. I am glad to hear of our having one officer left in the Co., the best one at that. I need not write any more as you can talk to the boys.

Camp of instruction
Benton Barracks, Dec. 5th

Dear Brother:

I thought to have been on my way home before this time but they seem to be slow about getting ready to pay us. We have been expecting pay and still expect it. I would not have waited so long but for the expectation of getting it in a few days. Robert Kirkpatrick⁴² and myself are coming together. I have a half fare ticket for three⁴³ that Frank sent us. It has made two trips to Iowa already and is good for another one. Some of the boys, tired of being at home, are coming back every few days. There is no punishment and no hindrance going or coming. I suppose the weather is cold in Iowa now. Here it is very pleasant, no snow on the ground, slight frosts at night, and pleasant days. I believe I have tramped within 5 or 6 miles of camp in every direction & begin to be familiar with a good part

⁴² The roster of the Fourteenth Iowa does not list a Robert Kirkpatrick. This friend was probably Robert H. Kirkpatrick of Vinton. He was in the Eighth Iowa and was taken prisoner at Shiloh and paroled.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. I, p. 1143.

⁴³ Peter Wilson gives no description of his trips home, and there is no explanation of this "half fare ticket for three".

of St. Louis. We generally spend most of our time rambling round or reading, playing some game or other. It is surprising how little it takes to keep us busy or rather kill time which is the most object. I don't know what effect it will have on our after life, so much idleness. I must admit it suits very well at present. I have been rather opposed to coming home on account of the uncertainty of staying even for a month but if I come I will not be in so much hurry as last time. If my health keeps as good as it has been for some time I will enjoy a trip better than before. I have so many girl correspondents it will be quite a round to see them all, which of course I must. But of this keep mum. I might better keep quiet myself, but I guess it is not particular. If the girls write I must answer hence I have as much writing as a store clerk. I guess it won't amount to much only it takes money to buy postage stamps &c. There are good prospects of being paid soon. If all is right I will be up in a week or two. I need not write any more at present

your affect Brother

Benton Barracks, Dec. 10th, 62

Dear Sister Jane:

I don't know whether I may come home this winter or not. Some of the boys just returned from Iowa tell us that the Col. told them they were exchanged & sent them here. If so I will not come. It is a long trip and hurry back again. I would like very well to come up provided I could stay a month or two but if the 14th is organized and sent to Dixie it will suit better. I see in this morning's paper an account of the battle in Ark., in which several of the new Iowa Regts. have distinguished themselves, while we are idly spending the time in Benton Barracks. I may be wrong but I think this winter finishes the war. I would like to see the end before I come home, then and not before I can content

myself to stay. I wrote to you just before you left Grinnell or after I don't know which. I have not heard from there since. I have not again heard from Sue. I was somewhat curious to know more about her but I am not particular. If she don't write it will save me some postage stamps, paper, &c &c.

Since writing so much we have signed the pay rolls and we will receive pay tomorrow. If this report of our being exchanged proves untrue I will come up soon. Ten days or less will be sufficient to decide. I need not write any more this week. Write soon if I don't come up.

Benton Barracks, Dec. 18th

Dear Brother:

A blundering Dutchman is talking to me so I have some bother to write sensibly. I have concluded not to come home at present. The reason is this. There is to be a general muster soon and all the boys are coming so I have concluded to be here and be mustered with the rest. We will be paid up to the first of January. Some time in January, if there is no exchange, I may come home then. We received two months pay a few days ago. I intended to have sent some home. Several sums were coming to me and I still owed ten dollars that I borrowed when I came home. That I paid, but those that owed me could not get pay this time on account of their descriptive rolls not being right, so for this time my luck has not been good. I think it will be all right next time.

I received a letter from Frank today. He informs me of John Felter's marriage and of his coming back soon. I hope he will stay, as there is no exchange that we know of. I think Col. Shaw merely wants to get the boys paid. So there is no trouble about his future. If Frank is at home yet tell him he need not hurry as there is no exchange yet

and he need not believe there is until I send him word. Letters from the Toledo boys say they are coming here soon. There will be merry times when they all get here. The general opinion is that we never will be exchanged. I am of the same opinion myself although of course we don't know. For my own part I am indifferent as to how it goes. I am ready to go to Dixie any time. I am confident that I would stand the hardships now better than formerly and the life in the field is more exciting but here we are very comfortably situated, good quarters, nothing of consequence to do. I think but few families in the country live better than we do. Groceries & meat & vegetables we have in abundance. We can live as well as the hotels in St. Louis as far as substantial living goes. It is quite different in the field, but I never read of important military matters but I wish to be into it again.

I need not add let me know how you get on at home. Give my respects to inquiring friends.

Benton Barracks, Dec. 23, [1862]

Dear Father:

I take this opportunity to inform you that I am in good health &c thought from the letters from the boys at home that they would have been at Benton B'ks by this time but they are not here yet. It is currently reported here that we are coming up to Davenport to recruit & organize. I think if we come it will be in January, as we will be mustered the last of this month at this place. If we come up I will be home for a short time at least. We have been so often deceived in regard to our being exchanged I can not put much confidence in it this time, although perhaps it is so. A good many of the officers of the 14th are here but none of them has reported for duty yet as none of the officers that were prisoners has been called to duty. It seems doubtful about their being exchanged.

There is not anything of interest going on here. It seems the Army of the Potomac is again defeated. I much doubt their ever taking Richmond. There are some splendid gunboats almost finished here. I have been on them several times. If we were certain that we were exchanged I would try my hand on the gunboats. The 11½ inch guns throwing a 180 pound ball and protected by 2½ feet solid oak covered by 2 thicknesses of iron and one of India rubber everything is so strong and so well arranged it seems almost impossible to damage such boats. I suppose they possess advantages over anything that has gone before. I have visited most of the forts about St. Louis as well as foundries, machine shops, &. There is much of interest about the city. I have rambled round it much and always felt well paid in seeing the different curiosities about such a city as St. Louis. I was much astonished at seeing the steam press roll out the newspapers. The Democrat press turns out the papers printed & folded much quicker than bundles go through a threshing machine. You have not mentioned whether the Democrat comes regularly and how you like it. I need not write any more this time. I suppose if we come to Davenport the same direction will find us.⁴⁴

Your affect son, Peter

⁴⁴ The next letter in this collection is dated January 13, 1863, and was written from Rolla, Missouri. In it Peter Wilson says indirectly that the paroled men had been exchanged and he tells of being on a military expedition. His second period of service had begun.

SOME PUBLICATIONS

Democracy's College The Land-Grant Movement in the Formative Stage. By Earle D. Ross. Ames, Iowa: The Iowa State College Press. 1942. Pp. 267. This volume describes one phase of the evolution of higher education in the United States from the church or privately endowed classical college to the technical school maintained by the State and subsidized by the Federal government—the so-called land-grant colleges for teaching agriculture and associated subjects. It includes a history of the debate on the two bills of Justin S. Morrill for Federal aid to State agricultural colleges, presents a study of the attitude of the States in accepting the offer of land, and traces the organization of the land-grant colleges. One chapter is devoted to curriculum and students; another to the relation between science and practice in agriculture. There are numerous and valuable notes and references, a bibliography, and an index. The volume is an excellent general background for a history of the Iowa State College of Agriculture.

Lincoln and the Radicals. By T. Harry Williams. Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press. 1941. Pp. 413. Plates. This is an analysis of the struggle between the radical and conservative elements within the Republican party for the control of the policy to be followed by Abraham Lincoln as President. The book is a graphic presentation of the quarrels which made Lincoln's way so difficult and finally culminated in the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson. Footnotes, a bibliography, and an index add to the value of the work. From the viewpoint of Iowa history, it is interesting to note that only one Iowan seems to have been mentioned as a participant in the bitter struggle for control of the Republican party. This was James W. Grimes, who was associated with the radical wing, but in the end defied it for the sake of maintaining the presidency as an independent part of the government.

A pamphlet entitled *Glimpses of Prairie du Rocher* (Illinois)

has been published by the Buechler Printing Company of Belleville, Illinois. It was compiled by Adolph B. Suess.

The National Resources Planning Board has issued a pamphlet entitled *The Protection of Cultural Resources Against the Hazards of War*, prepared by the Committee on Conservation of Cultural Resources. The chairman of this committee is Waldo G. Leland.

American Prime Meridians, by Joseph Hyde Pratt; *The Oklahoma Ozarks as the Land of the Cherokees*, by Leslie Hewes; and *A Functional Analysis of Population Distribution*, by Harold H. McCarty, are three articles in the April issue of the *Geographical Review*.

The Kansas State Highway Commission and the Industrial Development Commission have issued a booklet entitled *Kansas Points of Interest — Historic, Scenic, Recreational*. It includes texts of fifty-seven historical markers. The Kansas State Historical Society compiled the historical information.

Jefferson as an Agriculturist, by Alfred C. Miller, Jr.; *An Introduction to Canadian Agricultural History*, by V. C. Fowke; *The Food Administration-Educator*, by Maxey R. Dickson; and *Food Purchases of the Allies, 1917-1918*, by Almon R. Wright, are four articles in *Agricultural History* for April.

Peter John De Smet: Missionary to the Potawatomi, 1837-1840, by W. L. Davis, is one of the articles of special interest to Iowans in *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly* for April. Two other articles are *Range Sheep Industry in Kittitas County, Washington*, by R. M. Shaw, and *The Oregon Free Press*, by Leslie W. Dunlap.

The Kansas Historical Quarterly for May contains the following four articles: *The Fort Leavenworth-Fort Gibson Military Road and the Founding of Fort Scott*, by Louise Barry; *The Fourth of July in Early Kansas 1858-1861*, by Cora Dolbee; *The Ingalls Amendment to the Sherman Anti-Trust Bill*, by David F. McFarland, Jr.; and *Some Notes on Basketball in Kansas*, by Harold C. Evans.

The Evolution of Government in Allegheny County, 1788-1808,

by Virginia Beck; *The Influence of Western Pennsylvania in the Campaign of 1860*, by C. Maxwell Myers; *New Castle in 1860-61: A Community Response to a War Crisis*, by Bingham Duncan; and *Some Presbyterian Backgrounds of the Declaration of Independence*, by Edward B. Welsh, are articles in *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* for December, 1941.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Review for March contains four articles: *Eastward Sheep Drives from California and Oregon*, by Edward N. Wentworth; *Russia and the American Acquisition of the Philippines*, by James K. Eyre, Jr.; *Charles Juchereau de St. Denys: A French Pioneer in the Mississippi Valley*, by Norman W. Caldwell; and *Sheep Trailing from Oregon to Wyoming*, by Hartman K. Evans and Robert H. Burns.

The "Latin Peasants" [educated Germans] of *Belleville, Illinois*, by Oswald Garrison Villard; *Illinois in 1941*, by Mildred Eversole; and *Illinois Indians on the Lower Mississippi, 1771-1782*, by Stanley Faye, are the three articles in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for March. The number also includes *The Last Resting Place of Edward D. Baker*, by Milton H. Shutes, and *Illinois in the Eyes of a Visiting Scholar*, by John Van Horne.

The New-York Historical Society has recently published a biographical volume, *The Life of Emma Thursby 1845-1931*, by Richard McCandless Gipson. Emma Thursby was one of the outstanding American singers and the story of her life is a valuable contribution to the history of music in America. On two of her tours she sang in Iowa towns, at Burlington, on January 10, 1880, and at Keokuk, Davenport, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines in January and February, 1884.

The first number of *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, published by the newly organized Arkansas Historical Association, appeared in March, 1942. In addition to the *Salutatory*, written by the editors, and a list of the charter members, the number contains three articles: *The Organization of Arkansas Municipalities*, by Henry M. Alexander; *History of the Petroleum Industry in Arkansas*, by Gerald Forbes; and *Arkansas and Its Early Inhab-*

itants, by Norman W. Caldwell. There is also a list of Revolutionary soldiers buried in Arkansas, compiled by Clara B. Eno.

The March number of *Minnesota History* contains *The Minnesota Historical Society in 1941*, by Arthur J. Larsen; *The 1942 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society*, by Mary W. Berthel; and four papers presented at the 1942 annual meeting — *The Minnesota Historical Society and the University of Minnesota*, by Theodore C. Blegen; *Local Historical Museums and the War*, by Bertha L. Heilbron; *The Local Historical Society in Wartime*, by G. Hubert Smith; and *Collecting War Records*, by Lewis Beeson. In addition to these articles there are two others: *Bemidji: A Pioneer Community of the 1890's*, by Harold T. Hagg; and *Some Sources for Northwest History — Railroad Archives*, by Richard C. Overton.

IOWANA

Iowa Ornithologists of Other Days — Rudolf Martin Anderson, by Mrs. H. J. Taylor, is one of the articles in *Iowa Bird Life* for March.

Mark Twain's Letters in the Muscatine Journal, edited by Edgar M. Branch, has been published in pamphlet form by the Mark Twain Association of America.

Continuations of *Medical History of Webster County*, by William W. Bowen, M. D., appear in the April, May, and June numbers of *The Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society*.

A brief account of the Tipton Consolidated School which celebrated its centennial on April 20–24, 1942, by the superintendent, H. C. DeKock, appears in *Midland Schools* for April.

The Indians of Iowa Yesterday and Today, a paper by Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, was published in the *Toledo Chronicle* for October 9, 1941. Another article by the same author, *History of Education in Tama County*, appeared in the issue for December 4, 1941.

The Iowa Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration has recently published two volumes in the series of inventories of county archives. The *Inventory of the County*

Archives of Iowa Montgomery County is Number 69 in the series. The inventory for Polk County is Number 77.

Demacourier, a publication of the Demco Library Supplies of Madison, Wisconsin, devotes the May number to Grant Wood. It contains brief articles by Thomas Hart Benton, Margaret Thoma, Reginald Marsh, John Steuart Curry, and William A. Kittridge, with copies of six of Grant Wood's paintings.

The *Equiowa* for May contains a biographical sketch of Henry Scholte Nollen, president of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa from 1921 to 1941. Mr. Nollen was a grandson of Henry Peter Scholte of Pella. There is also a biographical sketch of Mr. Nollen in the May issue of the *Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M.*

The Iowa Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration has published histories of ten Iowa counties: Buena Vista, Cherokee, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Lee, Monroe, Ringgold, Osceola, and Scott. The series as a whole is sponsored by the State Superintendent of Schools. The individual histories are sponsored by the county superintendents. There is also a pamphlet entitled *Historical Jasper County — The First White Men in Jasper County*, sponsored by the Jasper County Historical Society, and *A History of Burlington Post No. 52, Iowa Department, The American Legion*, sponsored by that post.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

Discovery of draft notice, issued to John House for Civil War service, in the *Oskaloosa Herald*, January 9, 1942.

The Rand Lumber Company of Burlington began in 1842, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, January 9, 1942.

Mrs. William Mineck witnessed Japanese attack on Hawaii, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January 11, 1942.

Iowa Wesleyan College begins centennial celebration, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, January 12, 1942.

Carriage once belonging to Governor Francis Drake is stored in a Waukon garage, in the *Waukon Republican*, January 14, 1942.

Five negro slaves were traded for eighty acres of Grundy County land in December, 1849, in the *Lineville Tribune*, January 15, 1942.

Ghost town of Austin is recalled by old resident, by Roy Grimes, in the *Corydon Times-Republican*, January 15, 1942.

Old Rorer home was sold for taxes, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, January 16, 1942.

The story of Governor Buckingham's (of Connecticut) cane, made from Sioux City oak tree, in the *Traer Star-Clipper*, January 16, 1942.

Verses to "Tama Jim of Ioway", in the *Traer Star-Clipper*, January 16, 1942.

Picture of Jasper County log cabin used as schoolhouse in the 1850's, in the *Newton News*, January 17, 1942.

Story of a blizzard on January 12, 1888, told by Erick O. Nervig, in the *Humboldt Independent*, January 20, 1942.

1856 map of Clayton County reveals interesting statistics, in the *Elkader Register*, January 21, 1942.

Old programs of Patrons of Husbandry institute, in the *Manchester Press*, January 22, 1942.

How farmers waited for opening of ice roads across river in the early days, in the *Dubuque Tribune*, January 23, 1942.

Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa celebrates seventy-fifth anniversary, in the *Des Moines Register*, January 25, 1942.

History of the Jefferson telephone service, in the *Jefferson Bee*, January 27, 1942.

Seventy-fifth anniversary of the Lansing Presbyterian Church, in the *Allamakee Journal*, January 28, 1942.

Ed Sadd is Allamakee County's 74-year-old hermit, in the *Waukon Republican-Standard*, January 28, 1942.

Matthew Weir receives award for military merit in World War I twenty-four years late, in the *Rock Rapids Reporter*, January 29, 1942.

Old bill advertises farm sale to be held November 20, 1857, in the *Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune*, January 29, 1942.

Early churches in Tama County, by Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, in the *Toledo Chronicle*, January 29, 1942.

A decade of Des Moines history from 1870 to 1880, an address by William M. McLaughlin at the Des Moines Pioneer Club banquet, in the *Des Moines Plain Talk*, January 29, 1942.

Shenandoah issued quarantine passes during smallpox epidemic in 1885, in the *Indianola Herald*, January 29, 1942.

John C. Bennett, Mormon leader, author of the Nauvoo Charter, mayor of Nauvoo, and major in the United States Army, came to live in Polk City in 1853, in the *Madrid Register-News*, January 29, 1942.

Belmond built mud fort in 1857, in the *Belmond Independent*, January 29, 1942.

The real Black Hawk, by Thomas P. Christensen, in the *Sioux City Unionist*, January 29, 1942.

John J. Hamilton tells of the *Des Moines News*' scoop on Manila battle in the Spanish-American War in 1898, in the *Pasadena Post*, January 30, 1942.

Death of Mrs. Ann Marie Murphy, widow of John S. Murphy, long-time editor of the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, and mother of the late Senator Louis Murphy, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, and the *Des Moines Register*, January 30, 1942.

Sixty-two years in business, life story of Gum Kirby, in the (Mount Ayr) *Ringgold County Bulletin*, February, 1942.

Northwest Iowans in Hollywood, by Hoadley Dean, in the *Sioux City Journal*, February 1, 1942.

Sketch of the career of Professor Charles A. Fullerton and his "choir method" of music teaching, by Francis C. Veach, in the *Waterloo Courier*, February 1, 1942.

Some biographical data on Harry E. Downer, Davenport citizen and author of a history of Davenport and Scott County, in the *Davenport Democrat*, February 1, 1942.

Some early Grinnell folklore concerning "Heavy" Graham and Jack Watson, in the *Grinnell Herald-Register*, February 2, 1942.

Some statistics on Iowa liquor sales, in the *Hampton Times*, February 3, 1942.

Saga of the house of Luvbraate, story of pioneer life in Winne-shiek County, by Clarence M. Peterson, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, February 4, 11, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Gus A. Laubenfels, for fifty-five years with the Burlington railroad, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, February 4, 1942.

Frank Dudley talks over pioneer times in Delaware County, in the *Manchester Press*, February 5, 1942.

"True Tallcorn Tales" in the *Greenfield Press*, February 5, 24, 1942.

Bird and wild life notes of early Ringgold County, in the *Mount Ayr Record-News*, February 5, 1942.

William Ristan receives distinguished service medal for action in Argonne forest twenty-four years ago, in the *Davenport Times*, February 5, 1942.

Fort Donelson post of G. A. R. (Webster County) passes from existence after fifty-eight years, in the *Fort Dodge Messenger*, February 7, 1942.

County names commemorating Mexican War events, in the *Des Moines Register*, February 8, 1942.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The State and Local History News for March includes a discussion of the protection of historic buildings and valuable collections from war hazards.

Governor John W. Bricker of Ohio has appointed an Ohio War History Commission to supervise the collection of war records in the State. Carl Wittke of Oberlin College was elected chairman and William D. Overman was named executive secretary.

The Library of Congress has deposited in the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin a card catalogue giving the present location of a million and a half books published in America before 1876. This list was compiled by the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration under the direction of Douglas C. McMurtrie.

The State Historical Society of Missouri held its thirty-sixth annual meeting at Columbia on Monday, April 20, 1942. At the dinner Dr. Isidor Loeb was the guest of honor in recognition of his forty-four years of service to the Society. The speakers were George A. Rozier, president of the Society, Senator Allen McReynolds, and Dr. J. Christian Bay, who spoke on "Western Life and Western Books".

Kentucky is going on with its Sesquicentennial celebration although the war has naturally made some changes necessary. Among the activities on this occasion is the selection of ten members for Kentucky's Hall of Fame. Presidents of Kentucky colleges selected thirty distinguished Kentuckians and from this list high school students selected ten names — Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, Henry Clay, Jefferson Davis, George Rogers Clark, Zachary Taylor, Isaac Shelby, Dr. Ephraim McDowell, John Fitch, and John James Audubon.

The twenty-third annual Indiana History Conference met at

Indianapolis on December 12-13, 1941. It was sponsored by the Society of Indiana Pioneers, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indiana Historical Bureau. The meeting included two general sessions and sessions on archaeology, genealogy, junior historical societies and history clubs, history teaching, medical history, and the pioneers. The program included the following papers: "Some Historians Should be Drafted", by John W. Oliver; "The Crisis and Our Democracy", by Frederick A. Ogg; "The Angel Mounds", by Glenn A. Black; "Tools and Technique of Genealogical Research", by Joseph C. Wolf; "Place of Local History in These Days of World Interest", by Otho Winger; and "The History of Medical Education in Indiana", by Dr. Burton D. Myers.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association held its thirty-fifth annual meeting at Lexington, Kentucky, on May 7, 8, and 9, 1942. The long and interesting program included sections on "The Pioneer and Immigrant Theatre", with Harrison J. Thornton of the University of Iowa as chairman; "Agriculture and Agrarian Politics"; "Development of the Middle West"; and "Western Stagecoaches and Freighters". Of special interest to students of Iowa history were the following papers: "Farm Machinery in the Old Northwest", by Merrill E. Jarchow; "The Business Corporation in the Development of the Middle West", by Kenneth Walker; "The English Settlement in Illinois and Its Rivals", by Erna Risch; and "Propaganda in War Time", by H. C. Peterson. At the business meeting Charles H. Ambler of West Virginia University was elected president of the Association and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine of Lincoln, Nebraska, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Paul M. Angle, Illinois Historical Library, John D. Barnhart, University of Indiana, and George M. Stephenson, University of Minnesota, were chosen as new members of the executive committee. The two members elected to the board of editors of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* are George M. Stephenson and Everett E. Edwards, United States Department of Agriculture.

IOWA

The Guthrie County Historical Society is preparing a list of relics belonging to residents of the county.

Mrs. Alta Hewlett was elected president of the Pocahontas County Historical Society for 1942. J. P. Russell was chosen vice president, and A. L. Schultz secretary-treasurer.

The Smithland Museum and Historical Society has chosen the following officers: president, Alda McDonald; vice president, George Kelsey; and secretary-treasurer, Nelle Wendel.

The first annual meeting of the Mahaska County Historical Society was held on May 13th, with the following members elected as officers: president, John C. Bradbury; vice president, Owen H. Jones; secretary, Mrs. George Kalbach; and treasurer, E. L. Butler.

A. Dean Hickok won the first prize, seventy-five dollars, in the Ida County history contest sponsored by Charles L. Horn of Minneapolis. His manuscript, entitled "People and Places in Ida County, 1896-1912", will be bound and placed in the Ida Grove Public Library.

The Sac County Historical Society has begun the collection of historical material relating to the county under the direction of Mrs. C. M. Mohler as curator, with the assistance of the district directors. The Society was organized in February of this year. Malcolm Currie is president.

Some details of Hamilton County history are contained in Mrs. Clara Madsen's book *They Who Were Strong*, a story based on the life of the Isaac Hook family. Portions of the book were read at the May meeting of the Hamilton County Historical Society. Miss Bessie Lyon, president of the Society, addressed the group on the celebration of the semi-centennial of the Department of History and Archives.

The story of Isaac L. Rerick, an important figure in early O'Brien County history, was read by Hallie Rerick Rosecrans at the meeting of the O'Brien County Historical Society on May 8, 1942. Clara H. McMillen told the story of the *O'Brien Pioneer*, the first newspaper in the county. Officers elected at the meeting were O. H. Montzheimer, president, Charles F. McCormack, vice president, John A. Campbell, secretary-treasurer, and Clara H. McMillen, Louise Noble, H. J. Grotewohl, and Albert Meyer, directors.

The Madison County Historical Society held its 38th annual meeting on April 21, 1942. Mr. H. A. Mueller, who held the office of president of the Society since its inception, retired from the active presidency and was elected honorary president for life. The following new officers were elected: Mrs. Fred Hartsook, president; Mrs. Fred Lewis, vice president; Mont Johnson, secretary; and Charles Tucker, treasurer. A feature of the program was an address by Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The officers of the newly organized McGregor Historical Society are Jack Slyfield, president, Mrs. Harry Gray, vice president, Kate O'Rieley, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. Marian C. Rischmueller, publicity chairman. Five directors were also chosen for the Society. Guest speakers at the meeting held on March 18th were Martin H. Coutant, curator of Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, and Cal Peters, resident artist at the Prairie du Chien museum. Plans were made for an Old Settlers' Picnic to be held on July 4th under the auspices of the Society.

The program of the March meeting of the Buchanan County Historical Society was devoted to talks on horse-racing days at Independence. Mr. Roy A. Cook was the principal speaker. At the meeting held on April 10, Dr. F. F. Agnew spoke on "Early Day Medical Practice", and R. F. Clarke on "Early Day Merchandising". An exhibit of interesting relics was also a part of the program. An address by Mr. Everett Jacobs, who spoke on the work of the pioneers and what the county can do toward the war effort now, featured the May meeting of the Society. Mr. R. J. Hekel is president.

The Iowa State Department of History and Archives celebrated its semicentennial on April 5-11, 1942. There were displays of historical items during this period. A conference of State historical departments and societies of the Mississippi Valley was held on April 9th in the afternoon and was followed by a dinner at Hotel Fort Des Moines at which Governor George A. Wilson, Curator Ora Williams, Hon. F. F. Faville, and Dr. Edward P. Alexander,

Superintendent of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, spoke. The Historical Department was established by law in 1892. In 1923 it was reorganized as the Historical, Memorial and Art Department, and in 1939 was given its present title.

The Tipton Consolidated School celebrated its centennial anniversary on April 20-24, 1942. The program included radio broadcasts over WMT and WSUI on April 20 and 21, a program at the dedication of the marker, and a centennial pageant, "A Century of Youth". The program, given on April 22nd, included remarks by Dr. C. Ray Aurner, Dr. Forest C. Ensign, M. C. Hamiel, George Craven, Mrs. Floy Van Krog, Regent of the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, and Mrs. June Witmer, Regent of the Open Prairie Chapter. The dedicatory address was made by Governor George A. Wilson. The publicity committee has made plans for the compilation of a scrapbook containing all items of interest on the centennial celebration.

Representatives from Traer, Toledo, and Tama met at the community rooms in Toledo on April 9, 1942, and organized the Tama County Historical Society, with the following officers: President, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin of Tama, vice president, Mr. R. C. Wood of Traer, secretary, Miss Dorothy Runkle of Toledo, and treasurer, Mrs. W. S. Gallagher of Tama. The Society soon enrolled a membership of 243 and has made an interesting collection of relics through its various township chairmen. The Tama County supervisors have granted the Society permission to install display cases in the courthouse hallways. The Society also voted to sponsor the publication of a Tama County history to be published by Harley Ransom of Vinton, costing \$3.00 a book.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave an address at the meeting of the Madison County Historical Society at Winterset on April 21, 1942.

The State Historical Society of Iowa has recently distributed to its members and to all public and college libraries in Iowa a sixth

volume in the Iowa Centennial History Series. This is *Iowa — Public Land Disposal*, by Roscoe L. Lokken. The Society now has in press a *Reference Guide to Iowa History* compiled by Dr. William J. Petersen, Research Associate.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. Mildred W. Braunschweiger, Seattle, Wash.; Mr. A. E. Krause, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. H. Wilbur Polson, Cedar Falls, Iowa; Dr. R. T. Spain, Conrad, Iowa; Capt. T. C. Anderson, Norfolk, Va.; Mr. G. J. Johnson, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. A. B. Meston, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Ray Nyemaster, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Harley Ransom, Vinton, Iowa; Mr. Hubert W. Turner, Camanche, Iowa; Mr. W. W. Brubaker, Davenport, Iowa; and Mrs. Rena Walker, Fairbank, Iowa.

Mrs. Benjamin F. Shambaugh of Iowa City has been enrolled as a life member.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Station WOI, Iowa State College, Ames, gave a special program on Grant Wood on the evening of April 15, 1942.

The Central States Branch of the American Anthropological Association held its twenty-first annual meeting in conjunction with the seventh annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology at Cincinnati on May 8 and 9, 1942. Dr. Charles Reuben Keyes of Cornell College, State Archaeologist for Iowa, discussed "Indian Mounds National Monuments in Prospect".

The Legislative Interim Committee has voted to offer the owners of the Gardner cabin on Spirit Lake \$250 for an option on the cabin, \$4,750 to be paid when the next General Assembly meets if the lawmakers will again appropriate money for the purchase of the cabin. In 1941 the State offered \$5000 for the site but the offer was refused. The owners are now reported willing to sell for \$5000 but the appropriation lapsed when the sale was not completed by January 1, 1942.

CONTRIBUTORS

JANETTE LINDSAY STEVENSON MURRAY. Born in Traer, Iowa, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Young) Stevenson. Received Ph. B. from Coe College in 1896. Also attended graduate school of Chicago University. Received honorary degree, Litt. D., from Coe College, June, 1940. Taught English at Pawnee City Academy, Nebraska, 1896-1898, and Yankton, South Dakota, 1900-1901. Married Dr. Frederick G. Murray, and is the mother of two sons and three daughters. Interested in club work, education, and child welfare. Member of the Cedar Rapids board of education 1921-1924. Author of newspaper articles on Hawaii, Tama County history, child welfare, and parent education. *The Palimpsest* for December, 1936, contained three articles by Mrs. Murray on the church attended by many of the Scotch settlers in Tama County.

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OCTOBER NINETEEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO

VOLUME FORTY NUMBER FOUR

PETER WILSON IN THE CIVIL WAR

1863—1865

This is the final installment of letters written by Peter Wilson during his service in the Civil War. For the last thirteen months he was a prisoner of war in Texas and only two notes seem to have been smuggled out during this period.

Rolla, Mo., Jan. 13th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I take this opportunity to let you know how we come on. We are so far on the way to Davenport. We have been looking round this town since yesterday morning and I think it is time to put some of what we have seen on paper. It won't make much difference to future generations but for my own satisfaction I will note down what I think of Rolla. We left Camp Benton Sunday evening and marched down to the depot. We left St. Louis the same evening and rattled along over the roughest road imaginable. Daylight found us 70 or 80 miles from St. Louis. The train stopped at a farmhouse where there were plenty of chickens. The boys commenced firing out of the car windows making some commotion among the feathered tribe but little damage was done.

We arrived at Rolla a little after sunrise, got out of the cars, took breakfast, and then came here to our present camp, a little east of town, beautifully situated among scrub oak timber. I promised to describe this magnificent town. The situation is high and dry like Fort Donelson, the homes mostly new, not painted yet. There is "Saloon" written on the door of every other house. There are a good many log houses. The town is something like the size of Toledo. It is

the present terminus of the Pacific Railroad and like all little towns of the same kind has plenty of speculation going on. There are a good many government buildings, store-houses, hospital, &c. There are a great many government teams getting ready to start to the frontier with supplies for the army. The recent troubles at Springfield were the cause of our being sent here. The citizens got scared and requested the commander of the post to send for more troops. There seems to be no cause for alarm as the Rebels have been unable to accomplish anything and are reported falling back. I don't know how long we may stay here. Perhaps if things get quiet we may soon start for Davenport.

The country in the vicinity of Rolla is something like the country below Toledo, the settlers much the same as in Dixie. Rambling round this morning with a comrade we called at a house to get some water. A girl came to the door, looked at us, then shut the door, and peeped out the window at us. We knocked again but got no satisfaction. I concluded it was rather singular conduct but perhaps the ladies were too much Secesh. Perhaps if we stay a week here we may call again and have the matter explained. Fresh pork, turkeys & chickens are continually coming into camp. The chance for jayhawking is not very good owing to the fact that so many have been here before us but we will glean up what is left.

We have 23 men in Co. G. The Col. is not with us. We have little restraint put on us. We have the small tent, five men in one. I like to be in tents much better than in barracks. They are warm enough for the climate and more quiet than in the barracks. I don't anticipate much fighting out this way. This being the depot for supplies for the frontier army has to be carefully guarded. The trains must be guarded against Bushwhackers. The road to Springfield is

about 140 miles and sometimes the Rebels capture the trains. I suppose there will be a heavy escort sent this time. I think that is why we are here, to guard the place in the absence of the regular troops who will go with tomorrow's train. The teams are the usual six mules and heavy covered wagon. It makes little difference to the drivers whether the mules are trained or not. It is amusing to see the monkey shines going on among the teamsters getting their mules hitched up. Six new mules make some motions at their first go off. Government teamsters get 25 [dollars] per month. They have rough times but their work is not as hard as those that work on a farm. This place is 100 miles from St. Louis. The railroad is graded some of the way to Springfield but the cars have not run beyond this place.

I was amused this morning at the appearance of the farmers that were in town selling their produce. One old fellow and his boy had eggs, butter, rabbits, squirrels, possums, turkeys, chickens, and two nice large fat deer. Commodities sell [at] a good price. There is generally a good market where there are plenty of soldiers. Saloon keepers seem to have the majority in all towns in slave States. I think if I was led blindfold into a strange town I could tell as soon as my eyes were open whether I was in a slave State or not. Here in Rolla the pigs and cows have undisputed possession of the front yards. The farmers round here wear the everlasting butternut. I hate that color ever since Donelson & Pittsburg. The women say that our soldiers have taken nearly everything they had. One old lady lamented her last old hen yesterday. One of our boys came along and killed it. He would have done the same had it been the last in Mo. For my part I seldom prowl after chickens. I think the people are to be pitied that live in this State. While I am writing one of the boys came in and reported having found a flock of sheep. About twenty are just

starting. They will be apt to have mutton for supper. I am writing on my knee so I will finish, not being used to it. You may direct as usual only keep off "Paroled", as we go by that no longer. Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo., Co. G, 14th Iowa, will find us here or wherever we may be. We did not receive pay yet, I think we will not get any for two months. I will not write any more this time. I will write from our next stopping place if we go anywhere else. For the present good bye, your brother,

Columbus, Ky., Jan. 20th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I received your letter a few days ago and take the present opportunity of answering. The only news of importance is that we are all ready to leave Columbus and expect to start tomorrow morning. We go down the River,¹ rumor says to Texas but we only conjecture. The 6th Division is all going from this vicinity. Gen. Smith² commands the Division. Col. Shaw³ will command our Brigade. We will most likely see some active service this spring. The Reg. is in fine order as far as health is concerned. It is a severe time to leave our cabins as the snow is quite deep but no doubt we will go far enough South to get out of the cold. I send home my extra clothing; it is only some shirts and my coat. The shirts are in J. Felter's box. The coat is in a box sent to your address at Toledo. There is another coat in the box. You may leave it at Mr. Thomas's so the man can get it some time when he comes to Buckingham. We are leaving a good place to take the chances in the field.

We have fared sumptuously every day for a long time.

¹ The Mississippi River.

² Possibly Brigadier General Andrew J. Smith.

³ Colonel William T. Shaw commanded the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry throughout the War.

We may look forward to hard tack as our principal stand by now. I am glad we are going. I want to see some more of the South before our time is up. There are ten of Co. G enlisted in the Veterans and some more intend to go in. There are only about thirty old soldiers in the company. I suppose we will have a fine lot of recruits before long. They will see the elephant in full size before they are long in the service.⁴ I will write from our first stopping place. Until then good bye.

Benton Barracks, Jan. 21st, 1863

Dear Father:

We have just arrived at Benton Bks. I found your letter dated Jan. 8th upon arriving. I received one from James just before we left Rolla. I am glad to know that you are all well and getting your house up &c . . . I think you will tire of keeping a Nigger. There are plenty of them here, shiftless, good for nothing as may be.

It must be you jump at conclusions in thinking the first soldiers will all die or be killed. Of course bullets are no way particular who they hit but I am convinced that we stand much better chances of keeping our health in the South now than formerly. We have been out ten days in the worst kind of winter weather, we lost two nights' sleep in going and coming, I was up two nights on picket guard, we had rough times in all respects, but none of the men were sick during the time. Such a trip last winter would have been very different. There are but few of the 14th now, only 60 men were with us this time. I will put them against any men in the service for standing hard usage or fighting. I might as well say for jayhawking too. The people of Rolla

⁴ The meaning of this statement is not clear. Perhaps Peter Wilson refers to the story of the blind men who tried to determine what an elephant was like by feeling various parts of its body, such as the trunk, leg, tail, and side.

will remember us for some time. The amount of goods taken from the groceries yesterday would be worth at least 200 dollars. I don't justify such conduct nor have anything to do with it. I can't say that I pity the losers much. They are a lot of unprincipled suckers that make fortunes in a short time by selling goods at exorbitant prices to the soldiers. I think if they make much of the 14th they deserve it.

The country, what we saw of it between St. Louis & Rolla, is rather hilly but the land is pretty good. We had merry times coming in this morning. Having plenty of ammunition we sometimes took a shot from the car windows at dogs, sometimes at chickens round the houses, &c. Although we had rough times we liked the trip very much. I don't know what will be the next move. We will either come to Davenport or the Union Brigade will come here. If we come to Davenport I will most likely be home for a short time. If we stay here I cannot come home, but it is not much difference. This is a good place. My health is good. I have nothing to complain of in any way. Frank⁵ is much improved since he came here. John R. Felter is with us. He is looking well but not so well as when he left. The snow that fell a few days ago is melted and Benton Barracks is very muddy but we have little to do in muddy weather. It seems almost like home to be back in this place.

I see no reason to dread the future. I think the war will go on and many must fall perhaps without doing much good. I trust that the Almighty hand that has kept me in health thus far will keep me still in safety although much danger may be before me. If it is God's will that I find my grave in the South I hope to be ready. Let it come when it may, I am determined to do my duty and come home honor-

⁵ Frank was probably Benjamin Franklin Thomas, who was an old and close friend of Peter Wilson's.

ably or never. Still I do not anticipate losing my life. I have strong hopes that I will go safely through. After what we have come out of already I think we should be more hopeful under difficulties in the future. There is not much prospect of the 14th being filled very soon⁶ and we are likely to be at some unimportant place for some time. I think if I had my choice I would prefer going to Dixie with a full regiment to staying in Benton Barracks the way we have been. The prospect of staying in Dixie perhaps for years I don't much like but if we have a good regiment I am willing to go South and see the war ended before coming back. We might be taken prisoners again but we might not in a long time. If we get a fair chance there is not much danger. I need not write any more now. If we come to Davenport I will be home soon after we arrive, if not I will write as usual.

Your affect. Son,

I expected to have sent home some clothes but it seems we cannot get our lost clothing now.

Jan. 28th, 1863

Dear Brother:

It is not long since I have written all that seemed worth writing but we have just been paid this afternoon and for once I must send some money home. I find that to keep my money is poor policy as there are so many ways of spending money here. There was only two months' pay due me up to the first of Jan. The boys here owe me 20\$ all of which I will get this time. C. Burright owes me 10 dollars. I will find him some time. I will send as much as I can spare this time.

⁶ The placing of newly enlisted men in old regiments was hindered by the desire of influential men to form new regiments and thus secure for themselves commissions as officers. Usually old regiments had few places for newly commissioned officers.

We have not been paid more than two hours and a good many of the boys have gone to town to have a spree. Some of the green ones may come back without much money. Some have left their money in safekeeping until they come back. I have about 200\$ belonging to different ones. It is needless to explain the kind of places the majority of soldiers frequent whenever they have money. More of the soldiers are ruined at such places than killed in battle. Gambling prevails to some extent; after payday I have seen a dozen or fifteen banks in full business at the same time in Benton Barracks. Dice is used more than cards for gambling but both are used. There are some sharp customers among the soldiers sometimes too sharp for the regular gamblers. I have sometimes watched the game long enough to see how it goes.

It is reported that we start tomorrow for Carondelet some ten miles from St. Louis to guard the Navy yard or properly speaking the new gunboats that are being built there. Only two Co's are going. Co's G & H are the ones. I hear no more of going to Davenport but still we may come after all. It looks as if we are to be cut up into small detachments to do small kind of business. It is just as well for us perhaps but somehow I would prefer being filled up and try it in Dixie. The boys are spoiling here. They hardly know how to behave any longer. One good thing there are no brawls among ourselves. The boys stand up for one another in all scrapes that any member may get into so that if some one does something that is against all rules such as knocking the lights out in a grocery in the evening and taking whatever is handy or taking a milk pail from a pedlar wagon, any kind of stealing whatever is never reported. If any one gets drunk the orders are to report him so that he may be sent to the guardhouse. Instead of doing so we stow them away in some quiet place until sober. We

have some hard cases in the Co. There is nothing too bad for them to do and they are seldom out of mischief of some kind. Some of the worst will desert as soon as we are ordered into the field again. How long before that time shall come I cannot guess.

I think we have some reason to fear that traitors in the North are going to trouble us. I see in today's paper that the 119th Ill. is under arrest for disloyalty and quite a strong party in the North is in favor of ending the war on any terms.⁷ I hope the government will severely punish northern traitors. If half of that regiment were shot it would be no more than they deserve. After all the blood that has been spilled it is too bad to give it up. It is poor comfort to the Ill. soldiers now in the field to see how the traitors at home are trying to undo all they have done.

To be sure little has been done, but if the war is carried on the western men will open the Mississippi and keep it open. I have not much hopes of the Eastern Army taking Richmond but I want to see the war go on some time yet and if we must acknowledge the Southern Confederacy let them sue for peace. Then and not before could a peace be made that would be honorable and fair in case of a separation. We must have Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland or nothing has been gained by the war. If the North concludes to stop fighting the South will claim all the border States. I have often heard the Secesh say they must have all the slave States and they will if they possibly can.

I suppose there are some of the people not ten miles from Buckingham that would indorse the treasonable speeches made in the Ill. legislature this winter. If they lived in Missouri instead of Iowa they would suffer for their opinions.

⁷ The term "appeasers" was evidently understood although it was not then in use.

Jan. 31st

We are now in Carondelet, comfortably settled in a stone schoolhouse something like the one three miles from Cedar Rapids. Co. G in the house and Co. H in the barn.⁸ We like this place the best of any place we have ever been in. Carondelet is about twice as large as Cedar Rapids. It is pleasantly situated on bank of the river. The Navy yard is at the lower part of the town. I have spent considerable time inspecting it but I cannot give much idea of the extent of it in this letter. There are five gunboats being built there. One will be launched Tuesday, two are afloat and almost finished.

I will finish by giving you some idea of our duty here. In the daytime we have nothing to do. We have to do our duty in the night. We will be on duty about four hours every third night. The first comes on at six and is relieved by the second at ten. They are relieved by the 3rd at two and the third stand until six. Then the workmen commence for the day. There are five or six hundred men working on the boats. It sounds something like a boiler manufactory. The noise is intolerable. Of course we need not stay in longer than we please. There is so much machinery it is quite a treat to spend a few hours looking at it.

I need not write any more this time. I will try in my next to describe some of the gunboats.

Your brother,

Benton Barracks, Feb. 11th, '63

Dear Father:

As it is time to write so as to give the letter time to get through in the usual time I proceed to write a few lines although there is nothing worth mentioning without it is the state of the weather, roads, and Benton Barracks in

⁸ This is apparently a slip in writing. The two companies were G and H.

particular. Mo. against the world for mud and Benton Barracks against any part in the State. One good thing we can keep out of it as we have little to do. The winter has been unusually mild and but very little frost but plenty of rain. There seems to be more sickness this winter than there was last not in our Regt. but in the new, and among citizens. There is considerable small pox both among soldiers and citizens in St. Louis. No cases that I have heard of have been known in this camp but in the hospitals in the City and in some parts of town. The small pox hospital is far enough out of the way to be safe and all who take it are sent there. I have visited some of the large hospitals to see acquaintances and found them very well conducted and good care taken of the patients.

Since coming back to the Barracks⁹ we have not done much nor made any move towards filling or reorganising the Regiment. I think there is no particular line of action marked out for us yet. It seems to me there is a good deal of uncertainty in the most of Uncle Sam's affairs at present and small hopes of their getting better. Still we must carry on the war, hoping to have more success in future. The men that want to make peace now are nothing but Secesh and ought to be dealt with as such. I see no way but stick to the President in all his measures and if they agree to arm the Negroes so much the better. But I need not discuss such affairs. The subject is too extensive to go into. The unsettled state of affairs in the Regiment makes it an easy matter to get discharged from the service now if any thing is the matter. Quite a number have been discharged this winter that were in good health and some on pretence of being unfit for service. If I should have a spell such as I had in Memphis I could easily get a discharge but I have

⁹ No explanation is given in the letters preserved of the return to Benton Barracks.

not seen a sick day since I was home and hope I may continue so. I would much rather see the war ended before I come home than be discharged for disability.

I need not add your affect. son,

Benton Barracks, Feb. 18th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I have just received your letter and proceed to reply, though nothing new is to be the subject. We have been here since coming from Carondelet and we neither drill nor any thing else. Sometimes it is whispered that we will be consolidated with the 8th & 12th and commanded by Col. Geddes¹⁰ of the 8th but whether such will be the case we can't find out. If the three Regts. could be brought to the arrangement peaceably they would make a first rate regiment but there are too many aspirants whose hopes of a commission would vanish to make the thing comfortable, so it will be against the wishes of most of the men. But I don't know as it will be done so I will not write any more of the matter. In any case it won't matter to me. It will bring us sooner into the field and I would just as soon go there as any other place. The spring is coming and it will be more pleasant now camping than in the winter.

You must be in good spirits at home getting so much for wheat. I don't expect to save much money in the army as it is almost impossible to do so being paid regularly and in company all the time but if I keep well it won't make much difference.

I received a letter from Uncle David today. He says they have expected us at Davenport for a long time and meant to have roast turkey &c when we came. Perhaps we may come yet and if so we will have good times at the Grove,

¹⁰ James L. Geddes, of Vinton, had commanded the Eighth Iowa during most of its service.

but I have but small hopes of coming this time somehow. For the short time I spent there I took quite a fancy to the place or the people I don't know which. The Union Brigade is still at Davenport and we hear nothing of their being sent here. It seems to me we must get together sometime. I want to see C. Burright to get what he owes me. You may pay Gaston 11\$ dollars although I had only agreed to pay John when Corniel paid me. There are some things Frank, John, and I sent in company to Mr. Thomas. I had intended if we received our lost clothing to send home all I did not need, but we have not got it and some things I did not need I sent among Frank's things. I have no more to write this time. Give my respects to inquiring friends &c.

Benton Barracks,
March 4th, '63

Dear Father:

I neglected to write last week because I had nothing to write and it is not much better yet, but I will send a few lines this week to let you know that we are still in Benton Barracks working at the same trade and in good health. We have almost come to the conclusion that the War Department has forgotten us. I have not heard a whisper of what we are going to do or whether we are to take any more active part in the seemingly endless war. It seems the longer we fight the less success we meet with. If we lose a few more gunboats the Rebels will have as good a fleet as we. I think the North is in rather a ticklish place. They can't honorably give up the struggle and there is not much encouragement in carrying it on. I think the best way is to put it through right or wrong until some side says enough, as the saying is in common terms. The number that fall in the struggle must be very great. Take for instance the 3rd Iowa Regt. They were in this camp last Sept., 950 men as

good looking as ever came from Iowa. They are here now and have only 100 men fit for duty. They were only in one battle, that of Arkansas Post, where their loss in killed was but slight. They have perhaps 100 men dead and 150 deserters; the balance are in the hospitals. I think that is the worst state of affairs in any of the Iowa Regts. Some of the others are not much better. The old Regts. seem to have a better sort of men in them. I think the aggregate of deserters from the 14th would not amount to more than twenty and we have now been 16 months in the service. We have at present very few sick men but we may account for that in having good winter quarters and not undergoing the privations of soldiers in the field.

If we went to Dixie where the common chances of war would give some chance for advancement I think my prospects would be good. As it is there is nothing going on. I think in filling the vacancies that are now in the Co. I can get only one step higher but the next, if ever that comes, my chance is good for a commission. So the sooner we go into active service the better it will suit me, but I am only hoping that we may go South without any probability of our going. Governor Kirkwood is trying to get us to Davenport and if he succeeds he will then have us sent to the frontiers. This would be all very good if he can accomplish it. I received a letter from James today. I need not answer it this week as this is sufficient. I think the boys might go at it and write me how all the business in their charge is progressing. I am mostly idle and a letter from the boys would be very acceptable. I need not write any more this time.

Benton Barracks, March 12 [1863]

Dear Brother:

I will send a few lines this week as usual but I don't know what to write. The prospects of filling the vacancies

in the Co. is all over for the present. I think after all our waiting we will go to Dixie just as we are. Of course there must be an organization of some kind. They will most likely make three companies of the 14th and attach us to something else. The law is to consolidate Regts. that number less than 505 men. If we get no more recruits and go south now we will soon get below that number so we may as well expect to be consolidated sooner or later. If they would fill us up and send us to active service and as quick as vacancies [occur] in the commissioned officers fill them from those entitled to promotion there would be more encouragement in the business. There is a surplus of commissioned and noncommissioned officers now so of course there is no promotion at this time.

It seems too bad to keep those that came out in the first call in the ranks and give them no chance to get up and so many more regiments raised since they came out. I don't know how they mean to officer the conscripts. I hope they will fill the 14th with them. I suppose they will make new regiments with them and do the same in all respects as with volunteers.

How do you like the conscript law and what do you think of the prospects of the war for the Union? I think it looks uncertain but I hope it may go ahead for years rather than stop without accomplishing the desired end. Sometimes I see letters to the boys in this Regiment so full of Secesh notions that if the writers were exposed they would be severely punished, letters encouraging desertion &c. It seems there are numbers of Copperheads in Iowa. I hope the conscription will find some of them. I respect an open enemy that will fight for what he believes in but those in the Northern States that can find nothing better to do than work against us in every mean sneaking way ought to be put into the service and made to toe the mark. It would at

least get them where they would get less in numbers. Frank, John, and myself will send a box in company. I will send my overcoat and one of my blankets. I know now what is necessary in Dixie so I will not take anything more than is necessary with me, one rubber blanket and one government blanket are all that I will carry besides some shirts &c.

There is some talk of our starting down the river soon. Our Lieut. Col. has resigned.¹¹ He is not much force so no one cares. Our Major is ditto.¹² Somehow our field officers always were of the poor sort with the exception of old Shaw¹³ and he is fishing for a brigadiership. Governor Kirkwood gives his friends appointments in the army without knowing how they are qualified. So it goes, but I must finish for this time. I enclose a list of Co. G. It may be of use to refer to if I wish to do so at some future time so I will send it where it can be kept safe.

I will write next week. Perhaps we may know how soon we may start by that time. You might write a longer letter and give me your opinions on matters and things. I have dropped most of my correspondents so I don't get so many letters now as formerly.

March 13th

I have just received a letter from Flora¹⁴ enclosing one from Scotland. A letter from Scotland is so much out of my line it don't interest me much but still I was pleased to get it. I would like to know their sentiments on the Secesh question. I suppose they are not particular how it goes if they only have good times in Scotland. Quite unexpectedly we received orders this morning to elect a First Lieut.

¹¹ This was Edward W. Lucas of Iowa City.

¹² The name of this officer has not been found.

¹³ Colonel William T. Shaw.

¹⁴ Flora Wilson, an older sister and one of Peter's faithful correspondents.

Sergts. Hazlett & Shanklin¹⁵ were the candidates. Hazlett was elected by a large majority. I think if we fill any more it will be done according to seniority. If so Shanklin will be Second Lieut. Gallagher¹⁶ is Capt. now. All the troops here now except the 14th have marching orders.

According to a recent order from the War Department if a Company has less than fifty men they can't have more than two commissioned officers so there is no telling whether we will get the number or not. I think if Col. Shaw stays with us we will be all right. It is not certain whether we will leave this place soon or not. The Union Brigade has not joined us yet and of course they will before we leave. I am in good health and spirits. Let things go as they may I mean to keep a stiff upper lip, but I must finish as my letter is too long for anything there is in it. I forgot to mention that we are becoming adept in the bayonet exercise.

Benton Barracks, March 19th [1863]

Dear Father:

The time for receiving letters from home this week has gone by and none has come so I must write now or you will not get this next week. I scarcely know what to write as little is going on here. There is no immediate prospect of leaving Benton Barracks. It is rumored that Pope¹⁷ is bound to get us into Iowa. He keeps the Union Brigade and perhaps he may succeed in getting us into his Department. Of course we would prefer going to the frontiers to going South but as it is not certain I need not write about it. How do the folks like the conscript act? It seems to me if the Copperheads mean to kick up a fuss in the North their time has come. There may be some resistance to the conscription but I think if Jeff Davis can make it work we can.

¹⁵ Andrew H. Hazlett of Shueyville and Joseph A. Shanklin of Toledo.

¹⁶ William Gallagher of Toledo.

¹⁷ Probably Major General John Pope.

There is no use in thinking of peace until the South or the North is conquered. The South has all their available force now in the field and if we get 500,000 more men and go ahead I don't feel uneasy as to the result. We must do it and we must have men, so the soldiers indorse the conscript act and the sooner we get 500 of the rankest Northern Secesh into the 14th Iowa the better we would like it. Of course many of the conscripts will make as good soldiers as volunteers but there will be some that would not fight at all if they could help it and if they had their choice would fight against us. They will have to toe the mark to atone for their disloyalty if they get into the old Regiments. It seems as though war matters must come to an end in this year. The South cannot be conquered at all if another year goes by and nothing accomplished. The longer I stay in the Army the more I hate the South and worse still their friends in the North. Perhaps if we had been in the field this winter I might feel differently on the subject but we have long wished to be organised and sent into the field. As long as we are obeying orders we are not responsible for our idleness.

There is one thing sure if we were in the field it would be better for a majority of the men. There are some of the boys that are completely spoiled by being so long in a city with plenty of money and nothing to do. It is getting fashionable to steal anything they can. A few nights ago the post sutler's store here in camp was broken into and several hundred dollars worth of revolvers, watches, &c taken out. The thing was done in a reckless manner and the Provost Guard was soon on the ground but I think they will not succeed in proving any one guilty. There is any amount of mischief going on all the time and if we were sent to Dixie such work would come to an end. But I must finish this scribble. The weather is fine here and the fields begin

to look green. If you have such weather in Iowa I suppose you are sowing wheat.

Benton Barracks, March 27th, '63

Dear Father:

I received your letter this week too late to answer it but as I write to some of you every week I suppose you hear from me often enough. As long as we stay in Benton Barracks I can have nothing new to write. We expect from time to time to leave for some point down the River but there is no time set to leave yet. The latest reports we have had is that as soon as the Union Brigade comes from Davenport we will report to General Grant at Vicksburg. There is no telling when the Union Brigade may come. We don't much expect to leave for some weeks at least, perhaps longer. We will get paid and exchange our Austrian muskets for Enfield or Springfield rifles before we go. If we have to wait for conscripts to fill the Regiment it will be two months before we get them.

The arrangement made for giving furloughs to the soldiers has not been used here yet. I suppose they will give some furloughs this summer but if we go three or four hundred miles down the River it would take so long to come home it would not pay to take a short furlough. I think there is not much chance of my coming home this spring. As long as I am in good health it don't matter much.

If we are paid I will send the boys some books before we go down the River. I can get books very cheap in St. Louis, if they let me know what kind to send. The History of England in five volumes costs only two dollars. Byron, Shakespere, Scott, Pollock, or any such can be had for reasonable prices and I can send them in the trunk we send our surplus clothes in. We have had plenty of time to read this winter and I have improved it to some extent. I found it

more to my mind than studying grammar. I guess I was not meant for a student so I must not go against what seems to be ordained.

It is surprising that Uncle Dodd¹⁸ would come out at a time like this. It must be he has more pluck than some of our relations that preceded him. I suppose he will find a hearty welcome and no doubt he will like Iowa. If the war was carried on in the North instead of the South there would not be much immigration to it. The South will be reduced to a wilderness in a few years if they keep on fighting. If accounts are true they begin to be in straits for provisions now and they will get worse. The loss of Vicksburg if they do lose it and with it the Mississippi will stop them from getting supplies from Texas. If they can hold out much longer I think they will learn to live on short rations something that few soldiers can tolerate.

But I will change the programme and write a little about raising garden vegetables in the vicinity of St. Louis. This morning John R. Felter and myself went out of camp to take a ramble in the country or rather the suburbs of St. Louis. Among the various objects of interest we noticed on a hillside a good many glass houses or rather frames covered with glass roofs and fronts and looking so much like Uncle West's cabbage plant houses we thought we would go in and look at them. There was something like half an acre in beds of different plants all in good condition, cabbage plants of the early Oxheart kind just big enough to set out looking very thrifty and healthy. All kinds of plants generally raised by gardeners were there in tens of thousands. They were setting them out today and they have some twelve or fifteen acres of very good land.

I think from the prices of their produce they must have a

¹⁸ This was, apparently, Andrew Dodd, who had married Christine Wilson in Scotland.

good business. He told me he had his cabbages into market about the first of June. He is selling some of the early stuffs already, such as lettuce, radishes, &c, at prices not profitable to the consumer. He says the war hurts his business and particularly the blockade of the River. There is not so much business done in St. Louis now as when the River was open to New Orleans. Still there seems to be a great amount of business going on. I have just received a letter from D. Galt, so I must finish and write a few lines to him.

Benton Barracks, April 6th, 1863

Dear Father:

You have heard before this time that we had gone from Benton Barracks so I will give you a short account of our trip. We went to Memphis to guard the Paymaster and some seven millions of greenbacks down the River. We had a pleasant trip and had no mishap of any kind. The boat had a valuable cargo of government stores besides the money to pay the soldiers. We stopped at Cairo, Columbus, Island No. 10, Fort Pillow, and other places of note on the way down and arrived at Memphis and deposited our charge in the bank all right, then spent 24 hours in the city. It pleased us to visit our old prison under such different circumstances. Memphis is strongly fortified and I think it will stay in the Union if fifty heavy guns in one of the best forts I have seen is any argument. The city could be demolished in a short time and a small force in the fort could hold the place against a host.

Contrabands were coming in by the hundred, little wooly niggers looking more like a new species of monkey were piled up on the wagons, men and women walking by the side. They must have brought their masters' best furniture along judging by the bureaus, bedsteads of the best quality, feather beds, &c, that were piled on the wagons. I wonder

what is to be done with them. They are a kind of people I would not like to have for neighbours.

The soldiers down at Memphis and other points on the river are in very good spirits. They are more than ever in for fighting to the end. The general health is good. They think the time is not far distant when the Southern Confederacy will be numbered among the things that were. We found the Union Brigade at the Barracks on our return and we are under orders for Vicksburg. I think we will start in a few days. I will send some books to the boys if I can get time to go to St. Louis tomorrow or before we start. I need not write to Janet this time. I will write when we get to Vicksburg. You may not get my letters very regular now as it will be so far, I suppose it will take a week to get there. I may write from Cairo or Helena on the way down. I will write to Grandfather before we start.

Benton Barracks, April 8th

Dear Brother:

I take this opportunity of sending a few lines just before we leave. We start tomorrow morning for Memphis. We know not whether we may go farther than there at present. I have sent some things home by David Zehrung.¹⁹ My overcoat, one blanket, and my cap are all that were worth sending. I sent some books. You will see what they are. The whole cost only seven dollars. I think the boys will like Scott's works. For my part I think Pollock the best work of the kind that ever has been written but if they had sent for any particular book I would have sent it. We have been paid two months' wages and I must keep considerable as it may be some time before we get any more.

Joseph Shanklin has been promoted to Second Lieut. without being elected by the Co. I don't much like it, ditto

¹⁹ David Zehrung was from Tama County.

Frank, as either of us might have beat him. Gallagher is Capt. now and he seems to have taken matters into his own hands in regard to promotion. The vacancies in the Sergeants will be filled in a few days. If we could have an election I could get nine tenths of the votes for first Sergeant. Still I am not certain if Gallagher appoints them himself that I will be promoted at all. There is some mischief kicked up in the Company almost every day, that is the boys will rob pedlars, saloon keepers, &c, and some sneak told Gallagher that I took no pains to prevent such things. He believes it, I suppose, but as he never mentioned the matter to me I have not attempted to clear myself. One thing is I am satisfied of having done my duty to the letter. I will not curry favor with any officer, as I consider myself as good either as a man or a soldier as any of them. I feel somewhat vexed that I cannot get what the boys would give me now as the next step from that is a commission. You see it is not all smooth sailing in the Army. However I can get along, if I must remain in my present place, so I mean to go ahead and do my duty let things go as they may. I enclose a likeness for Aunt McCosh with my respects. I got sunburnt black as the picture on the trip to Memphis.

I enclose ten dollars. It is not much but I have given up the notion of saving money soldiering at thirteen dollars per month. I will write from Memphis in a few days. Give my love to all. Agnes must excuse my not answering her letter this time. I will do so before long. Direct as usual.

Cairo, Ill., April 12th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I take this opportunity of sending a few lines to let you know where we are and how we are. It seems that the 14th is elected for good times yet awhile. We left St. Louis

calculating to soon be in front of the enemy but on arriving here we found that we had to relieve the 35th Iowa from duty at Cairo and let them have a chance to show their mettle at Vicksburg. So we are now stationed here as Provost Guards. We have to patrol the levee, guard the fort, prison, &c. We have good quarters and though Cairo is an unhealthy place, low and swampy, we are better off than at any point below. I have little fear of ill health now and I don't much mind where we go. As a general thing the boys are not particular where we go or stay. If we stay here we will have good times. The Lieut. Col.²⁰ is in command. Old Shaw is on duty at St. Louis. The Lieut. Col. is recently promoted from Capt. He is very strict. He puts the men in the guardhouse for missing one roll call or stealing an apple from a pedlar. If he continues he will get something like discipline in the Regt. I am glad to see it. I am tired of the system of plundering that has been in fashion for some time.

As I expected we have had no election for Orderly Sergt. The system of regular promotion has been introduced. Some of the Union Brigade were appointed Sergts. while we were on parole and Gallagher leaves them above Frank and myself, something unfair, as an election would have made us all right. I am Fourth Sergt., Frank Fifth. There may be a change in the program sometime. If election should ever be the order of the day to fill a vacancy in the commissioned officers I think I can come in. If regular promotion is the way, I think there is small chance of my ever getting a commission particularly if we stay in places of safety like this. But I will not mention this matter any more. At present numbers of the old officers of the 14th have resigned since the Battle of Shiloh and their places are

²⁰ The Lieutenant Colonel of the Fourteenth Iowa Infantry at this time was Joseph H. Newbold. He was killed in action in Louisiana on April 9, 1864.

filled, some of them by smart men and some by the stupidest greenhorns in the Regiment. Some that were commissioned in the Union Brigade are of that kind that cannot smell powder without getting faint and falling to the rear. I am glad that Co. G has officers of good pluck and common sense, if some are not the choice of the men. Capt. Gallagher is the best officer in the Regt., if he has used partiality in filling vacancies.

Jonesboro, Ill., April 29th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I take my pen to scribble a few lines to pass the time this afternoon as I am not busy. Yesterday and the day before we had hard marching and today we are resting. The raid by Marmaduke²¹ into Mo. caused some stir up that way. As we are only 25 miles from the Cape²² of course we had orders to go and help but we were too late to have a chance to fight from behind breastworks. A small force of Infantry, some Cavalry, and the Artillery had no trouble in keeping the Rebels out. Reinforcements from above and below enabled our men to assume the offensive and at last accounts the Rebels were getting enough of it ten miles from the Cape. I have not heard how the battle terminated. I think the Rebels have had poor success this time.

We have been longer in this place than we expected to be, still it is something new bushwhacking in Ill. The country near the river is very hilly and the river bottoms heavily timbered. There are some fine farms on the bottoms, the land is said to be the best in the state. The country is full of deserters and Secesh. We have arrested a good many of both kinds. We found 15 barrels of whiskey and a quantity of powder near the Cape this trip on the premises of a dis-

²¹ Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke, of the Confederate Army, led a raid into Central Missouri in the spring of 1863.

²² Probably Cape Girardeau was the place meant.

loyal citizen and confiscated the same. I think if we stay here long whiskey will be scarce as it is mostly owned by Copperheads and we spill it if we can [not] bring it in to the Quartermaster. I have seen four barrels spilled and not a man wish to drink any. Beer is the universal drink in the 14th now and there is seldom any drunkenness. We must respect private property here in Ill. though if they did not board [us] we would not be so honest.

It seems the Rebels are coming into us at all points just now. I am glad of it as it is easier to fight them up this way than to hunt them in Arks. I think it is useless to hope for the restoration of the Union as it was or in any way, still I think it is best to go ahead and fight the Rebels until there is some show for peace. I don't think that time will be very soon. There seems to be as much fight in the South as ever though they are said to be hard up. Well I must finish and go and eat supper at ——— well I guess they will have something good to eat and I will spend the evening with the girls. The men are so disloyal they cannot stay at home so we must tend to their women folks as much as possible in their absence.

I have not seen Frank or John R. Felter for a week. I guess they are all right. I expect to ride forty or fifty miles tomorrow. As we have borrowed horses we put them through. We mean to visit some adjoining counties before going to Cairo. I think it will not be necessary for me to write from here again. I would not have written now if we had not the prospect of being so busy. I may not write for some days.

Jonesboro Courthouse, Union Co., Ill.

Dear Father:

May 6th [1863]

It is some time since I have had any letters from you but I suppose you are very busy at this time. It is not so with

me so I can afford to send more letters than I get. James has been very prompt about answering my letters for the last while for which I feel very grateful. Our letters go to Cairo to the Regiment and then are sent here as opportunity offers. We generally send a squad of prisoners to Cairo every few days and those that take the prisoners down bring the mail and such things as we need.

We have extended our researches into the neighbouring counties and are doing a good business among Copperheads & deserters. We go in small parties of six or eight and generally find our prisoners in the night when they don't expect us. I think our operations will have a good effect on the traitors in this part of the State. A good many deserters after living in the woods until they got tired of it come and give themselves up. The Copperheads are very quiet here now. I think they are the best neighbours we have ever had. We have had one public dinner and a ball and next Tuesday is appointed for another of the same. I suppose there are some of the people that treat us well because they like us but the majority do it because they fear us. They know they are guilty and they think by using us well to gain our good will and make us believe they are good Union men. Of course we will accept their hospitality but if anything is found out on any of them that will send them to prison they must go after all their kindness to us.

Some that we have arrested have been sentenced to six months imprisonment and 500 dollars fine for harboring deserters, hurrahing for Jeff Davis, and such like. I think that is paying for their whistle but it is no more than is necessary to cure them of their disease. There are only some six or eight Union men in this place. Still nothing can be laid to the charge of most of them. Perhaps after the lesson they are receiving is past those that have escaped this time will keep out of mischief hereafter.

It seems as though good fortune follows the 14th now as we could not find a better place than we are now in if we had our choice. The detachment that is here has the advantage of those in Cairo as our propensity for rambling is gratified and we are more at liberty but the whole Regiment is very well off, and the General in command at Cairo has spoken highly of us on several occasions. He is well pleased with our success up here and I see our doings here have been mentioned in the Chicago papers. To be sure this is unimportant business that we are engaged in but it is right for us to do well what we find to do.

They are so strict now at Cairo that one of the boys was sent to the guardhouse for wearing a white hat on dress parade. It is easy enough to conform to the rules in dress and everything else and while we stay at Cairo where the General is we must do it. For my part I like to see everything go off in a soldierlike manner. There are some soldiers from the Army of the Miss. at home here on thirty days furlough. There will be two from each Co. of our Regiment furloughed this week. As soon as they return others will go. I think my turn will come in time to be home about the first of July, if we stay in Cairo that long which is very probable. I must finish as I have nothing more to mention.

[Jonesboro Courthouse]

May 7th

Dear Brother West:

I must pen a few lines in answer to yours so you will excuse my doing so on this sheet. I have nothing particular to write only that I wish you would write oftener. I am always interested in hearing from you boys, how your business prospers &c. Well I will try and write something that would interest you. As you are interested in hunting I will

mention that we have some sport after wild turkeys. There are plenty of them in the woods round here. This is not the proper time to kill them but we don't mind that. It is not easy to kill small game with an Enfield rifle but some of the best marksmen do very well. The best shot I ever saw was on the River. One of the boys killed a gull over half a mile [away]. As we were going along the road one day we saw a flock of buzzards, some eight or ten on a tree about three-fourths of a mile distant. There were twenty of us and the Capt. gave us permission to shoot at them. We gave them a volley all together and killed three at that distance so you see our guns carry a long distance. There are plenty of fish in the creeks round here, mostly catfish. Down at Cairo the boys catch some very large ones. We catch them with hook and line. I think if Mr. Quin were here he would enjoy himself. Now West write again and I will write you a longer letter.

Cairo, May 19th, 1863

Dear Brother:

I received your letter of May 14th this morning and send a few lines in reply though there is nothing new at present. I was sorry to hear of the sudden death of your brother-in-law and of the continued sickness of Ward.²³ I know a little from experience how it goes to be sick in the Army and can understand how he is situated. If he had six months good health so as to get somewhat at home in the Army it would not be so bad. I am happy to state that the health of the 14th was never better than at present. If Ward could get to some of the hospitals up this way or at Memphis he would get the best attention possible.

I think the field hospitals must be in good shape judging by the stores that are taken down the river. There are im-

²³ This was Ward Wilbur, a brother of Mrs. James Wilson. He was discharged because of illness in August, 1863.

mense quantities of ice shipped from Canada to Cairo on the cars and from here to Vicksburg in barges. All kinds of hospital stores are abundant. Still the best of care cannot save all. We have as recruit in Co. G one of the Doo's²⁴ from Crystal. He received a letter from home this morning informing him of the death of his brother in Co. E, 24th Iowa. The new regiments have had more sickness last winter and this spring than the old but after they get used to the climate they will not be so much sick.

I had hoped to see the Tama Co. boys in the 10th, 24th, and 28th Iowa in Grant's Army this summer but since we are scattered in southern Ill. it is not likely that we will see them. The Paymaster is here paying the 14th. I will send what I can spare by letter as usual. I guess it is best to send it in two letters as if one should get lost the other might not. There is only two months wages due this time. If I should get furloughed before another payday I may be short of cash but I can make it some way. It seems to be a slow business getting a furlough. They have been more than two months trying to furlough the first squad and they have not gone home yet. It puts me in mind of the Circumlocution Office that is mentioned in some novel.²⁵ I will be in the second squad but I don't know when that may be. I don't expect to be home but once until my time is up so it don't matter for a month or two. It seems after all the good and bad news from Hooker's Army that another defeat is added to the former ones in the east, but still I think the time is coming that will see the Grand Army of the Potomac victorious over those that have so often driven them from the field. I must finish for the present with best wishes to yourself and Esther I remain, your affect. Brother

I enclose fifteen and will send ten or fifteen the next time.

²⁴ This was apparently John Dew. His brother was Andrew J. Dew.

²⁵ Peter Wilson had evidently read *Little Dorrit*, by Charles Dickens.

Cairo, Ill., May 23d [1863]

Dear Sister Flora:

I have just received your letter and proceed to reply though I have nothing particular to communicate. In the first place I will mention that it is somewhat uncertain what time I may come home. I may be home at the first of July and I may not be home for three months. My furlough is due about the first of July but if some of the boys are sick I will let them go in my place, as it don't make much difference. I like Cairo first rate now and if it was not for seeing father and mother I would not come home this summer. I had a letter from Allan Sloss a few days ago. He gave me James Solls's address and promised to come and see me as he went to Chicago this summer. If I had known of his being in Memphis I would have called on him when we were in Memphis. Allan has heard of the weddings on the Creek and thinks I will be the next, judging from what he heard while up there. I think he is mistaken for once but time will show. I think being away from the girls so long will insure my being an old bach.

If I keep my health I will stay with Uncle Samuel as long as we can agree and he needs soldiers. Perhaps when my time is up I may feel like coming home for good, still I have no idea that I will be satisfied to stay. I hardly know anything more to write. I think you might write a little oftener and longer letters. I have dropped a number of my correspondents from my list partly because I did not care much for their letters and partly because I did not get answers to half the letters I sent them. D. Galt is the most punctual correspondent I have outside of home. He is the first to give me the details of any important event.

There is a good number of churches in Cairo. I attended the Episcopal last Sabbath. I think once will do me for that kind of mummery. We generally attend the Presby-

terian, sometimes the Methodist. As a matter of course the theater is largely attended every night in the week. I have seen Uncle Tom's Cabin acted. I think it is the best subject they could get and they do better than in St. Louis. I generally go to the theater twice per week as I am on guard that often and the guards can go where they please. We generally have some fun on patrol guard as we have to visit all places of amusement to see if any disorder is going on. There are so many gunboat soldiers, steamboatmen, &c in Cairo it takes a few guards to keep order. With love to all I remain your brother,

Cairo, Ill., June 8th, 1863

Dear Father:

It is some time since I have written to you but as I had nothing of consequence to write I must be excused. It is little different yet, but I will send a few lines anyway. Up to this time we have had excellent health in Cairo and as long as that is the case we will enjoy ourselves. The weather has not been very hot yet for longer than a few days at a time. Within the last few days the Army from Mo. and Burnside's old command has passed enroute for Vicksburg. It looks as though there are to be extensive operations down the River. I think there is no likelihood of the 14th being there. It was almost certain we would go last week but now it is the reverse.

I see the Tama Co. companies at Vicksburg have suffered pretty severely in the late battles. Some boys that I was acquainted with have been killed. I saw some of my Long Grove friends in the 20th the other day, as they stopped a few hours at Cairo. The 20th was at Benton Barracks last fall while we were there. Since then they have been marching through Mo. and Arkansas. They were in the battle of Prairie Grove. The Army of the Frontier has done more

hard marching than any other in the service. They are now on the way to Vicksburg. The men look well and are willing to join the Army of the Miss. and quit bushwhacking in Missouri. Now that we have nothing but State Militia in Mo. it is likely there will be an invasion from Arkansas and as we are not far off we may be sent to that State before long. But I need not speculate on the subject.

I had a letter from Uncle David²⁶ a few days ago. His folks were well as usual and crops looked unusually well. He is coming up this fall to see you. Perhaps I may come at the same time. I cannot come before August now and perhaps not then. I have nothing more to write.

Fort Halleck, Columbus, Ky.

June 18th, 1863

Dear Brother:

We left Cairo rather suddenly a day or two ago. The troops had mostly left this place and gone to Vicksburg. The enemy, knowing how it is, are said to be preparing to attack this place. Five companies of the 14th have been spared from Cairo to reinforce the few that were here. There are about 1500 men here and the place is so strong we can hold it against 5000 or more. We don't expect such good luck as to be attacked here. There is plenty of heavy artillery and a couple of gunboats to keep them from getting into the town so let them come. They will find us ready. Fort Halleck is situated on the bluff above the town. The bluff is very high and the view up and down the River is splendid. It was called Fort Beauregard when in Rebel hands.

There is a Coloured Regiment in the other fort at the lower part of town. We will have a high time in case we are attacked, but the belief is now that they will not come. They

²⁶ This was, apparently, David McCosh, a brother of Peter Wilson's mother.

were 25 miles from here yesterday and I don't know whether they are coming on or not. We have pickets out five miles and scouts beyond. It is all right to keep on the lookout. The first two boys that went home on furlough will be back today. The next two will start as soon as it is quiet. I will not promise any more about coming home.

It seems the Rebels are putting their threat of invasion into practice in the East.²⁷ Perhaps if they burn a few of the large cities it may wake up that part of the country. They have plenty of men and if they don't choose to meet the enemy half way I hope the Secesh will learn them something of how an invading army destroys where they go. Price and Marmaduke have tried to get to St. Louis several times and have never been able though. There were not many soldiers in their way. If Hooker cannot take care of his part of the frontier I don't know what his Army is good for but it is not for me to have an opinion in such matters. I have no doubt but you at home take more interest in the progress of events than we soldiers. If we knew for certain that tomorrow we would be in battle we would sleep as sound tonight. We don't know what changes an hour may bring and we have learned to take every change with indifference.

The rain has been falling fast all day and all our mess are on picket but Frank and myself. We have been fixing hammocks sailor fashion in the tent. If you could step in and see us and how nicely we have fixed up you would be surprised.

I need not write any more now. There is no telling how long we may be here. The Headquarters of the Regt. is at Cairo. This detachment is commanded by Capt. Crane.²⁸

²⁷ General Robert E. Lee had started north on the campaign which was stopped at Gettysburg.

²⁸ Captain LeRoy A. Crane was at this time Captain of Company H of the Fourteenth Iowa.

The most of our officers are here on Courts Martial. Give my love to all.

Fort Halleck, Columbus, Ky., June 27th, '63

Dear Brother:

Your letter of June 20th arrived this morning. I was glad to hear of your continued prosperity and of the welfare of all our friends. I have no doubt but you find yourself very busy. I am happy to state that since we came here we also have been busy though there has been no particular reason for so much vigilance. The Rebels are between here and Memphis but we have no reason to suppose they are in force sufficient to trouble us much. They have fired on the boats with Light Artillery and they threaten to stop boats from running. The boats that went down yesterday had a gunboat in company.

We go out on picket about two miles and scout nearly every day from ten to thirty miles. The Cavalry do most of the scouting. Since we came here no considerable force has been nearer than thirty miles. They don't run the cars regularly to Jackson, Tenn., now. When they go they take a strong guard. There are plenty of orchards out on our picket line and apples are ripe here now. We enjoy ourselves better while on duty than when we have nothing to do. For my part I like to ramble round the country much better than loafing in the city. I think we have done with doing guard duty in cities now. If we stay here this summer our business will be to keep the Rebels quiet in this part of Ky. There are some three thousand men at this post. Some of them are drafted men. Their nine months is almost up, when I suppose they will be mustered out.

The remains of the 128th Ill. is temporarily attached to the 14th. They have only about 150 men. Their commissioned officers have been mustered out. Desertion is the

cause of their being so much reduced. We have a pretty large Regt. now, more so than when we left the State. I will mention that Col. Shaw owns 80 acres of prairie south of Sprole's place. Sprole knows the lines or E. Stokes could show you the land. You might look at it sometime when you are over that way. It can be bought cheap, a trifle more than the original cost perhaps. It is not best for me to buy land until I come home but there might be some advantage in this. It can do no harm to find how it is. I could pay for it in a year at any rate if I don't come home and the prospect now is that I won't. Furloughs are not given now in this Division owing to the threatening attitude of the Rebels.

D. Connel has written to B. F. Thomas that he is a candidate for State Senator. I need not express my opinion as I am not much of a politician. If the Republican Party is for him he will be apt to be elected. We will be mustered for pay in a few days. Please mention in your next whether you received two letters with 15 dollars in each from Cairo. I think of nothing else at present.

Dear Brother Andrew:

I received your letter last night and thank you very much for writing. I can stand almost anything better than to be disappointed in getting letters from home. You boys must have busy times to get your work done this season, but you will get through some way. You must have had good hay weather this season to have put up so much yourself. The little stumpy fields in this part of the country look something like Conn.²⁹ They have no reaping machines here, but Niggers and most of them belong now to the Coloured Regt. here in Columbus. They raise good corn here and

²⁹ The Wilson family had lived for a time in Connecticut before moving to Iowa.

good hay but the country is rough, the timber heavy. If you had some of their timber and orchards it would be a fine thing. I think plenty of apples is the best thing to keep healthy in the summer. Perhaps they may be plenty in Iowa some time. They have plenty at Uncle David's now. So much horse trading has been done since I came away I don't know what kind of horses you have now. If you had some of their big Ky. mules you could make things gingle.

I would like very much to see our cousins just come from Scotland. Perhaps I may by and by. I need not tell you boys to be kind to them and make them feel as much at home as possible. I guess they will soon learn to like Iowa. Now Andrew if you will write about once in two weeks, John and West also, I think among you you might do it. I will always answer. It would improve your style of writing and I would be your debtor. I have not many correspondents but those at home and you know it is sometimes a good while between letters. If we had more to do we would not care so much about letters, but I am happy to say we have plenty of time to do anything we please. I have forgotten whether I answered West's letter. I think not so I will do it soon.

Columbus, Ky., July 1st, 1863

Dear Father:

Once more I send a few lines to let you know that we are in good health and like we always have done enjoying ourselves. Our duty here is something like it was at Cairo, only there are more men here and more to do. There are men enough to make a Brigade but each Regt. is commanded by its own Col. I suppose none of us is permanently established here. Col. Shaw will have command of the post as soon as he is relieved from court martial duty that he is on at present. He is the oldest Col. at this place and perhaps he may be a Brigadier before long. We are on guard about

twice a week, the rest of the time is mostly at our disposal with the exception of a few hours drill each day.

The weather has been pretty warm with heavy rains nearly every day. We may thank our stars that we have no marching to do. Yesterday we went out about a mile to be reviewed by the General. Before we finished a heavy shower came on us and there were at least two thousand of us came back drenched to the skin. I think it can rain in this State at the shortest notice. The only consolation we had was to see the officers get their nice uniforms wet.

It must be raining up the river. The river is rising rapidly. What little crops I have seen here look well. There is a fine corn field over the river where the Battle of Belmont was fought. The soil is good in this part of Ky. but the timber is very heavy and like other parts of the South they have been farming among the trees. The most of the farms are deserted and left to ruin. There are some splendid orchards a few miles from camp and we begin to use the apples now.

There is plenty of game in the woods and plenty of hogs, but pork is not much in favor with us. We had a box of dried peaches, apples, and a quantity of butter sent from Ind. We got it cheap and have not found it worth while to forage any for some time. We sold our fishing boat and lines before we left Cairo and we don't know that we will be here long enough to pay us for getting another.

July 4

We are just returned from our picnic and I will give an idea of how it went off. The ground was fixed up in good style for having a good time, a large floor was made for dancing, ropes were fixed for tight rope performers, all kinds of folks from the General to the contraband were there. Well there were some good speeches made, plenty of

music from the bands, and some songs sung. Then we were dismissed for dinner, ah there's the rub. We had marched three miles in the hot sun, listened to the speakers, and then there was nothing to eat except by paying for it, ten cents per glass for lemonade and other things in proportion. You may guess we were not in the best of humor. There was plenty to eat and drink on the ground, but it was not for nothing. The citizens of Columbus make plenty of money from the soldiers to enable them to give us a free dinner. Instead of that they took advantage of the occasion to make some more out of us.

Well there was but one opinion among us, to pitch in and clean out every stall on the ground. The officer in command saw that things began to look squally, he mounted the stand and called "Attention". We know so well what that means that he had attention immediately. He then told us that no doubt we had come there with the intention of eating two or three oxen &c but there was not even a fatted calf, nary chicken nor anything else, so we would go home and eat hard tack and pork as usual and invite our entertainers to come and eat with us.

We gave three cheers for dinner at camp and fell into line and started leaving, those that had intended to sell us something to eat looking rather wistful. If the Col. had not marched us off when he did we would have made a clean sweep of the place. There was plenty of beer, whiskey, wine, &c. and we had both the will and the power to take it. The Col. touched us on the only weak place we had when he told us we will show them that western men are too well disciplined to raise a row even when we have been provoked.

There is some trouble over in Tenn. and perhaps we may be sent out to Jackson before long. It is said the Rebs are conscripting out that way. Most likely we will go and see

how they prosper. I am only guessing at it but I hope we may run around and if there are such things going on have something to say on the matter. I will finish this scribble. I think some of the folks might write as often as once per week. I get very few letters now and the longer the fewer.

Columbus, Ky., July 10th, 1863

Dear Brothers John, West, & Andrew:

I am going to tell you the kind of times we had when the news came that Vicksburg was taken. We had a general permit to go to town and enjoy ourselves. Since the 4th the boys have only been waiting a good opportunity to take vengeance on the Secesh of Columbus and by common consent now was the time. General Asboth issued an order for all loyal men to illuminate their houses in the evening. Some of the saloon keepers did not comply, saying they did not care about Vicksburg's being taken. There were perhaps two thousand soldiers in town and this was a good case to begin with. They rushed in and smashed everything to pieces, drinking all the liquors, taking tobacco, cigars, &c, and making short work with it. Every saloon in town was visited and they had to shell out what was called for on pain of losing all. Soon half of the crowd was drunk, officers as bad as the men, considerable fighting going on.

General A. was said to have made good use of an empty whiskey bottle in a row with one of the boys. He was in citizen's clothes, having a jolly time with the others. About midnight most of the men returned to camp.

The next morning strange to tell nearly every tent had something in it that was not the previous day. Some had liquors, some tobacco, some dry goods, some furniture. One had a large quantity of snuff, enough to keep Uncle McDowall in snuff for five years. Every thing that could be carried away was brought to camp. If they had given

us something to eat on the Fourth nothing of the kind would have happened. Nothing of the kind has happened since. We were out at Rolla last winter. If we get on another spree when Richmond is taken I think Columbus will be reduced to the ranks. Nearly all the business of Columbus is supported by the soldiers and they pay two prices for everything. It is no more than right that they confiscate a little sometimes.

It has a bad effect on a Regiment, such plundering, and I hope it may not happen any more. Now boys you will please each of you to write. Let me know how all your affairs, agricultural, nonsensical, &c, are. John R. Felter and Frank get six letters from home to my one and I write almost or quite as many as they.

Columbus, Ky., July 11th, 1863

Dear Father:

I received your letter last night with one from Uncle Andrew and was glad to hear from you. I would write oftener to you but when I write to James you can see the letters so it is not worth while to write to you both in one week. I hope Uncle Dodd's folks will soon be well and at home in Iowa. I would like to see them, but for the present there is not much likelihood of my being home very soon. There is generally a big scare here once per week. The Rebs. are reported coming this way now and are said to be within a few miles of this place. We were under arms all night last night.

I will just mention that we of the 14th don't believe they will do us the favor of attacking us. If they do they will get whipped the worst kind. They have been too strong for our scouting parties but it don't follow that they will commit suicide by running against the guns of Fort Halleck. They would place us under lasting obligations if they come on and pitch in.

Now that Vicksburg is taken Port Hudson must soon follow. General Herron is going to Texas with the old Army of the Frontier. He wrote to Col. Shaw that if he chose to go along he might. I don't know how the Col. will decide. If he pleased us he would go to Texas. Col. Shaw can keep his Regiment pretty near where he chooses. I think he will stay where he is for the present. He knows how to logroll as well as the next one and he knows where we are best off. I think Col. Shaw has more respect for his men than any officer from the State and he cares nothing for his superior officers. If they don't please him he has a very plain way of speaking his mind. I think we have more reason to hope now for the end of the war than we ever had before. If Lee don't manage to take his Army back to Virginia their case seems hopeless. I think Lee will get back but he must have made a poor spec[tacle] in Penn. this time. I will write to Grandfather soon. I think Uncle Andrew don't understand it when he says we must have some other government before we have peace. He says the sympathy of the Scotch is with the South. That seems strange but our recent victories will shut up intervention for a time, so it don't matter. I think jealousy and a wish to see our country go to pieces has something to do with the sympathy for the South. Well I sincerely hope that the time is near when the restoration of the Union is no longer doubtful. I have written some to the boys so for this time I will finish.

Columbus, Ky., July 20th, '63

Dear Sister Jane:

I received your letter last night. I did not know you had gone home so I wrote to Grinnell last week. I have written twice since I got any letters from you. As soon as I get a letter I answer it forthwith if practicable. I generally

write two letters for every one I get, but no matter. I hope you may like harvesting. If it was possible I would come and help. There is no doubt but considerable inconvenience is experienced in Iowa on account of so many being away but they know comparatively nothing compared with any of the Southern States or in any part of the North where the raids have been made.

One of Co. G died yesterday. His brother belonging to the 24th died last week. Their name was Dykman.³⁰ Their folks live on Salt Creek. There has been no deaths in the old soldiers of the 14th since Nov. until now. Some of the recruits have died. We buried him with military honors. He died very suddenly, though his health had been poor for some time.

There seems to be a general feeling of security here now among the citizens. Sometimes squads of the enemy come within a few miles, but for the last few days everything has been quiet. There is little to write. We went out a few miles today after blackberries and apples and though it was very warm we brought in enough to last some days. Some of the boys make very good pies, dumplings, &c. Ky. is a good fruit country. Every farm is well supplied with all kinds of fruit trees.

I should write to West but you must let him read this and I will write to him before long. I hope he may get well as soon as possible. I hope his trouble may not be serious. It is rather hard for Uncle Dodd's folks to be sick in their new place, but the folks around will do their best to make them like Iowa. I think the prospect of the war coming to an end was never so bright. A few more victories will finish the Southern Confederacy. I hope the time is not far distant when we can leave the land of Dixie forever. Perhaps

³⁰ Edgar Dykeman was in Company G. His brother, Simon Dykeman, died in St. Louis.

things may take a turn in favor of the South again but if they don't soon they cannot hope to fight to any purpose much longer. Uncle David's folks and some of the Brownlee girls are coming up this fall. I hope they may have a pleasant visit, as they take pains to use me well when I go there. I may have something to write next time, for the present good bye.

Columbus, Ky., July 23d, 1863

Dear Sister Flora:

It is time for me to get a letter from you, but I don't expect it knowing how slow you all are about writing. Perhaps I don't write as often as I ought, but staying so long in one place gives us nothing to write. Everything is quiet here, so quiet as to make it uninteresting. Our regular turn of guard once or twice per week and a few hours drill every day is all our duty. We go out a few miles for fruit and vegetables two or three times per week. Peaches are pretty plenty and just beginning to be ripe. Apples are very plenty and have been ripe for some time. Blackberries are very plenty everywhere. All kinds of vegetables are very dear, but we find a way to get enough. The most of our time we have nothing to do and it comes very good this warm weather.

There is a good deal of chess playing in Co. G now. John and Frank are both very good players. I don't know whether you ever saw the game. It is the best I ever saw. Of course we must introduce it at some future time among the folks at home. I don't think there will be any more furloughs given in the 14th. There has not been any for the last month, so I don't expect to be home until our time is expired or the war ended. I think the prospect for a successful termination of the war is getting no longer doubtful. There is no doubt but the South will fight until they

cannot raise another Regt. but their efforts must be in vain. Their case is getting no better very fast as the record of events in the last month will show.

Another of Co. G's boys died a few days ago. With that exception the health of the Co. is very good. Our duty is regular and not hard enough to hurt our health. I guess they must be very busy at home this harvest. West being unwell will make it more so. One thing they ought to be glad of is that they don't happen to live in the part of the country overrun with opposing Armies.

The folks in Iowa will never know anything about the miseries an invading Army brings on the inhabitants of the country they occupy. I hope the draft will not fail to bring out some of our neighbours that think more of their interests than of their country. Now is the time to increase our Army when we are getting so much advantage over the Rebels. If the whole power of the North was given to the prosecution of the war, six months would end it. I don't think the men drafted this time will have long to serve if they go into it with a will. So it is no great calamity to be drafted at this time. I have nothing more to write.

Columbus, Ky., August 1st, 1863

Dear Brother and Sister:

The mail came in last night bringing letters for John and Frank but none for me. Such is often the case. I suppose the reason is one is a married man, the other expects to be, so their letters come as regular as the day of the week. I must admit that in that they have the advantage. It is very pleasant to hear from home regularly, though I don't care as much about it as formerly. Time will get us used to most anything.

I may report all quiet in our department, nothing more exciting than drumming a deserter through camp before he

goes to serve his time out in the Military Prison at Alton, Ill. They begin to punish desertion pretty severe now. If they had done so sooner it would have been better. They must come down pretty severe to keep the drafted men from deserting. I wonder who of the Wolf Creek men will have the honor of carrying a musket. I see in the papers the Regts. on the Potomac are to be filled with drafted men. I hope they may do the same in the West. Let the men choose the Regt. they will serve in and it will make them useful right away and make them more satisfied.

We have been paid two months' wages. I would rather have waited another month and received four months' wages and pay for clothing that I did not get. I send ten in this, the next time I write I will send more. For the present I will not make any arrangement with Col. Shaw about his land. I think 120 dollars cash would buy it but as I have not the cash I can't do it and I guess it is not worth while to buy it on time. Money will buy land some other time, perhaps not so cheap but no matter. The troops that left this place to assist in the reduction of Vicksburg have returned. I don't know whether any of them will stay here. I hope we may go next time. We have had good times here this summer but I would like to go somewhere else, now it is quiet. Likely we may stay here all the fall though there is nothing certain in the Army. Don't you think things begin to look like a war with England or France or both. I think in a short time we will be able to defy them. If my time was up today and either England or France recognizes and helps the South I will enlist again.

Esther will please write this time.

Columbus, Ky., August 3d, 1863

Dear Parents:

I have been putting off writing till I would get a letter

from home. I got one from Andrew last night or rather this morning as I was out on picket yesterday and did not come in till ten o'clock this morning. I think I killed ten thousand mosquitoes last night. They are more trouble than the Rebs. They are not bad in camp but out in the woods they are as the sands of the seashore.

It seems you have had busy times to get your harvesting done this season. The measles is something that everyone ought to have while they are young so it is well to be through with them. To have the measles in the Army is as bad as anything, particularly for men rather old. I hope by the time the next letter comes you may all be well again. There is not much sickness here though among the new companies there is some. There are some of the boys that never have nor never will get entirely over the diseases contracted while in prison. I have not been sick an hour since I was home. I have not even had a cold though we sleep in the open air, sometimes every other night. This is election day in Ky. and there have been squads of soldiers sent to the different points of this district to keep order. I presume they will elect a Secesh in this county as the most of the people belong to that persuasion.

There are some Union men round here. I will mention an incident that happened at the Provost Marshal's the other day to show you how it is in Dixie. Two men living not ten miles from Columbus and on adjoining farms, the one Secesh the other for the Union, both leading men in the county, both men of great strength and pluck, mortal enemies of course. At a political meeting a short time ago the Union man made a speech and as usual was opposed by the Secesh. The Union man was, it seems, too much for him so Secesh threatened to kill him. The parties next met on the porch in front of the Provost Marshal's. Secesh says very blandly how are you, Union man answers with a smasher in

the face that knocked his opponent down. Then the fight commenced in earnest. The Provost Marshal and his peacemakers kept out of the way until Secesh was used up sufficiently then came and stopped the fight. When it was over Secesh was so badly beaten his folks would not know him and could get no redress. The Union man was presented with a revolver and encouraged in well doing. I will finish by writing a few lines to Andrew.

Columbus, Ky., Aug. 19th, '63

Dear Uncle and Aunt:³¹

Though I don't remember much about you, as it is so long since I have seen you, still I hope the time is not far distant when we may become better acquainted. Your experience in Iowa must be rather melancholy, owing to the sickness and sad bereavement in your family. May He that giveth and taketh away be your consolation in your time of trouble. It has never been my lot to lose any very near relative but the time will come for us all to go to another world. It matters little if we are ready how soon. Here in the Army we are often reminded of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death.

If half of us come home when the war is over it will be better than I expect. But I need not continue on the dark side of the picture. If the cause of justice and liberty triumphs over that of slavery & wrong, those that die have not died in vain. I presume you have not thought much about the merits of the war or rather you may doubt whether it is right for us to go on at the rate we have, sacrificing so much life, but I take it for granted you would like to see America as it was before the war commenced, with the exception of slavery. I think the time is coming when that will be the

³¹ This letter was apparently written to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dodd who had come to Iowa from Scotland after Peter Wilson enlisted.

case. For my part I want to see the war go on until we are completely successful.

The fall campaign will perhaps decide the long struggle. If we have as good success as we have had this summer it certainly will. I don't know when I will come home but I think some time before winter. As there have been a good many changes since I was home I am quite curious to see the place. Of course I should mention the folks before the place as I am most anxious to see them. I shall be happy to see my new friends from Scotland as the more of them come the more it is like home. We soldiers see a good many places and a great deal of the country but I have not seen anything down this way to compare with Tama Co., Iowa.

Columbus, Ky., Aug. 20th, 1863

Dear Brother West:

I hear you have been quite unwell for some time and not making much progress towards getting well. There is one thing in your favor, you are where you can be taken care of. That is an important item. Perhaps one-half of the men that are sick in the Army get very indifferent attention, many of them that die would have lived if they had had any care. I hope to hear of your getting better soon. I have had the ague but I am as well as ever now. The ague is very plenty just now. It comes all at once. Such a time I never saw.

The Dr. don't excuse a man from duty if he is shaking but he can cure the ague in a short time. Our Dr. is a hard old sinner. He would put a man on duty if he was three-fourths dead. He once sent one of our Co. to load some commissary wagons in the forenoon. The man had been very unwell for some time previous and died in the evening of the same day so you see the ague is not much with such a man. I am lucky in not being much in his power. A Dr. has

much power in the Army. If he says a man is fit for duty his decision cannot be appealed from. He has much power for evil if he sees fit to use it. I think we have a good Dr. in serious cases but he is too severe if there is not much the matter.

I must write of something else now so for want of something better I will tell you about the kind of folks that live in this part of Old Kaintuck. I have been to most of the houses in the vicinity of the picket line, sometimes five or six miles out. The farms are generally small something like Connecticut. When you are on one farm and look around you would think it was the only clearing in the country. The thick tall trees shut up the place and make it look isolated and lonesome. A good orchard, a cornfield, garden, a patch of a few acres of tobacco, sometimes a few acres of cotton, a log house generally of inferior quality the chinking out in summer to let the air circulate, two or three cows, ditto oxen or mules, with a yoke made after the pattern of the last century, and the harness for the mules one-half chain the other old ropes. The wagons are like the one Mr. Nungesser brought to Iowa.

The men and boys dress either in butternut or common tent cloth. The women smoke, quite often make corn dodger without salt and solid enough for cheese. The men wear long hair and are generally a rough, hossier,³² sickly, lazy, and mostly drunken set. There are of course exceptions to all this, but I mention the common farmers that work for their living like we do in Iowa. Every farmer keeps a lot of hounds or curs of some kind. When you go up to the house you would think there was a general invitation to all the dogs in the country and they were there to have a general barking when any one came. Now West I hope you

³² This word has not been found. Possibly the term meant was "hoosier" meaning "uncouth".

may feel well enough to write by the time you get this scribble.

Columbus, Ky., Sept. 1st, '63

Dear Parents:

I take this opportunity of sending a few lines to let you know how we prosper down this way. The most attentive visitor we have at this time is the ague. At least one-third of the men in camp has it at times. I happen to be among the number myself. I was in hopes it would not come back on me but in that I was mistaken. I have broken it up the second time and mean to keep it off if there is any virtue in dogwood bark, Peruvian bark, and Old Rye Whiskey. That is the kind of Bitters the Dr. gives us.

I cannot account for so much ague here. The place looks healthy, the ground is high, the water we use mostly from the River and River men say it is as healthy as any water in the U. S. I think being out in the night³³ so much has something to do with it but whatever may be the cause there is plenty of it. I think a short time will bring cool weather and good health. The weather has been quite cool for the last few days. One of the boys that was up to Chicago with prisoners says they have frost up that way. I presume you have the same in Iowa. Rather early for frost, but nothing is surprising in Iowa, it can freeze there most any time.

The newspapers tell us of the fall of Sumter and Wagner. Charlestown must follow sooner or later. Also Jeff Davis has called out 500,000 Niggers. Who would have thought it? They must be changing their opinions in Dixie pretty fast to think the chivalry would be brought so low as to fight their battles with Niggers. I think between us the Nigger will get his freedom. I am not prepared to give an opinion

³³ Peter Wilson, like others of his time, saw no connection between the thousands of mosquitoes and the epidemic of malaria.

as to the result of Jeff's new policy. I will venture that it is too late now. If he had done so in the first place he would have made it win. I think before he gets his armies in shape we will have pushed farther into the South and what we get we can keep.

Yesterday being the last of the month, we had review. Besides the white Regts. out there was one colored Regt. I must say they both looked well and marched well. A review is conducted something after the following manner. In the first place the troops are formed in line with open ranks. Then the reviewing officers ride along in front, the band of each Regt. plays a short strain as they pass. They ride round the left and along behind to where they started, then take their station opposite the center and some distance in front. The ranks are then closed, wheel by company and pass in review. If a company of 100 men can keep a good line and keep step it looks well. Our Niggers did splendid, considering the short time they have been in training but for the present I must close. I will write more next time.

Columbus, Ky., Sept. 5th, 1863

Dear David:

I take this opportunity of penning a few lines to let you know how we prosper down this way. In the first place I will mention that Frank and I were expecting to have started home today, but just when our furloughs were to be sent in, furloughing has been stopped. Nothing but sick furloughs are given at present. John R. Felter started home this morning. His health has not been good for some time and we hope a month at home may help him. Perhaps Frank and I may have a chance by and by, but there is no certainty of it. If I cannot come before cold weather I will not come in the winter and it is not worth while to come next

summer. You may look for us in fourteen months at farthest.

You will likely see John about the time this reaches you. From him you can get all the news that happened up to the time he left but though he has not been gone a day we have seen the execution of three American citizens of African descent. They belonged to the party that murdered a family of whites at Compromise Landing near Island No. 10. Six more will be executed next week, so you see there is to be considerable performing on the tight rope yet before justice is done.

There was a large crowd of soldiers and citizens, women and children present. A hollow square was formed round the scaffold and after waiting a short time the prisoners, escorted by a Co. of Regulars and the band playing the Dead March, arrived at the scaffold. The prisoners mounted the ladder with a firm step and took their places, the ropes dangling at their heads. Fifteen minutes of religious exercises by a colored preacher and they were ready. The ropes were put round their necks, they shook hands, then the caps was pulled over their faces, the drop fell, and they were dangling between Heaven and Earth. One died instantly, the next struggled a few minutes, the last about 15 minutes. One was a small man, the other two were upwards of 200 lbs. They died game. It is said their officer told them to commit the murder but I don't know how it is. The spectators looked on like as if so many cattle were being killed and rough jokes were passed on all sides. But I must change the subject and tell you about something more civil than hanging darkies.

One of the boys found a bee tree in the woods the other day and we made up our minds to have some honey forthwith. So the same evening we started well supplied with axes and a good supply of something to take. We arrived

at the tree just at dark and built fires to see to cut the tree. It was a large poplar four feet in diameter. We were not long in bringing it down, when we proceeded to chop open where the bees were. This was not so nice as the bees would sting and buzz at a furious rate. Finally we got to where the honey should have been but it was mostly comb. We got about fifteen pounds of honey. There are plenty of bees in the woods if we had time to hunt them. It is too early in the season to get much honey. There has been so much ague among us for a few weeks that we have had no drill, so we are having pretty good times as far as work goes. We have a regimental library now and preaching every Sabbath. There are some histories &c in the library. It helps to pass the time agreeably. This part of Ky. is as quiet now as Tama County, Iowa. The same precautions are taken to keep in readiness for the enemy as if there was one in the vicinity. There are some negro troops here that are already well drilled. They go through the maneuvers on battalion drill in a style that no troops need be ashamed of. There is one reason why they learn so quick, they will obey orders and give their attention to what they are doing much better than we will. They are used to being ordered round, we are not nor never will be. We obey our officers because we know there must be discipline but as a general thing we don't hold them much in awe.

The discipline in the negro Regts. too is very strict and they have a funny way of punishing offenders. They have a large pole laid up on crotches and every morning a number of darkies are taking a ride on the pole. The offenses generally consist of running the guard, being absent from roll call, &c. The court martial is still in operation here. Some time ago the remains of the 128 Ill. was temporarily attached to the 14th. They deserted almost to a man. Most of them have been retaken and sentenced to work out their

time under guard at Memphis. The deserters are generally sentenced to finish their time at hard labor and their pay is all stopped. The way of the transgressor is hard in military life.

I suppose the draft is postponed in Iowa once more. I wish they would give us a chance to recruit some way. We have only some thirty men in our Co. If we should be sent to the field we would amount to but little. Politics run high here. If Tuttle³⁴ had come out Independent he would have had a good chance for the soldiers' vote. As it is nothing but those that have been Democrats without the possibility of change will vote for him. I presume he is just as good as Stone³⁵ but being in bad company is what we don't like. Now David you must excuse the want of news in my letter, as there is nothing going on here. Please write soon and let me know how matters and things are about Buckingham. Give my respects to all the folks.

Columbus, Ky., Oct. 31st, 1863

Dear Parents:

I take this opportunity of informing you of my welfare. There is little else to mention. We have not left Columbus yet nor are there any signs of it. We have fixed up our tents so as to keep comfortable while here and on the whole are doing very well.

I was on prison guard yesterday and as there are some queer chaps in prison sometimes I will give you some incidents that came under my notice last night. There are about 100 Secesh prisoners in the guardhouse at present, besides half as many Union soldiers, citizens, Negroes, &c. About nine o'clock in the evening two butternut chaps were

³⁴ James M. Tuttle was the Democratic candidate for the office of Governor of Iowa at the 1863 election.

³⁵ William M. Stone, the Republican candidate, was elected.

added to the number and soon another, all three pretty drunk, that being the cause of their incarceration. When a new one gets into the guardhouse he hears nothing but taunts on all sides. If he is spunky it comes to blows right away. The first two that got in last night had a serious time of it as they would not put up with the insults that were offered and got sundry knocks and bruises into the bargain. No. 3 came in like as if he was at home. He answered all comers in such a witty good-humored way we saw there was fun ahead. After introducing himself as an uncompromising Rebel and being congratulated on finding good winter quarters he proceeded to take a seat and came down to the tune of 250 lbs. on a man sleeping on the bench by the stove. The sleeper waked up swearing loudly. He's only a Copperhead says one, a Copperhead says the big man. Where are you from, you durned reptile, get up and give me a seat and let us have a chat.

Q. How do you like Governor Yates?³⁶

Ans. I don't like his politics.

Q. How do you like Old Abe?

Ans. They say he made good rails.

Q. Do you know if military law can divorce a man from his wife?

The general opinion was that it should, as a man in military prison was cut off from all society. The big man says if he can get a divorce by staying in prison six months he will be content. So Mr. Copperhead, you're from Ill. Durn you. Hope they'll hang you. I'm a Reb out on the square, you are a half Reb half anything and too much of a coward to fight for either party &c &c.

Thus poor Copperhead is abused even by drunken Rebs. Citizens are charged 5 dollars for a night in Uncle Sam's Hotel, if nothing more than drunk and disorderly is the

³⁶ Richard Yates, Governor of Illinois.

charge. There are some getting in and some getting out every day. One of Co. G got in since I was home³⁷ and has been sentenced to three months hard labor and imprisonment, charges sleeping on post.

The health of the men is good now. Co. G has not a man on the sick list. There are only three or four in the hospital. John R. Felter is improving and if nothing unfavorable happens he may have good health now. This is muster day. There is four months pay due me now. One of our boys has bought Col. Shaw's 80 for 150 dollars to be paid in installments of ten dollars per month. I think he has a good bargain. I would have taken it myself if it had not been inconvenient to go so far to improve it. If we pay more nearer home the advantages in being near it will more than overbalance. I have not got any letters since I was home, please write soon.

Columbus, Ky., Nov. 12th, '63

Dear Parents:

I take the present opportunity of informing you of my welfare. There is nothing of much importance going on at present. We are busy building log cabins to live in this winter. I have been in the woods every day for some time and I find that work is not so intolerable as I thought it would be. However I don't mean to do much more till I quit soldiering.

For some time back there has been general license for all the boys to go and hunt on the River bottoms, the game is plenty, deer, turkeys, and small game in abundance, also hogs and cattle which belong to the farmers. But no matter who they belonged to there have been so many of them killed that hunting is forbidden altogether. That is gener-

³⁷ This suggests that Peter Wilson finally got a furlough and was home some time between September 5th and October 31st.

ally the way it goes. The boys get to killing private property, then they must quit hunting till the offense is forgotten. Perhaps in a month there will be as much liberty as ever.

I had a letter from Uncle David. He has offered his farm for sale and he says there are some of his neighbours in the notion of moving to Tama. I guess if they get Sec. 17 there is no doubt but they will come. Aunt is as much in favor of it as Uncle.

I think if James can get a reasonable bargain he should buy 160 acres from the man that owns the land south of his place. I can pay for 80 acres before my time is up, so there is not much doubt but we can pay for it.

It is nearly a month since I left home and no letters yet. I will expect one soon. There is little to write from here but I will write once in two weeks to you and the same to James so you will hear from me every week. I have written to Cairngaun since I came back. I will write to Pinmore some time soon. Give my respects to Uncle Dodd's folks. Excuse my short letter.

Columbus, Ky., Nov. 23d, 1863

Dear Parents:

I take the present opportunity of letting you know that all is well with us as usual. We have moved into our cabins and fixed up in good order for winter weather. Our cabins have not cost the government much as the roof is made of shingles of our own making, most of the floors are made of boards taken from deserted buildings about town, windows from the same place, stoves ditto. We have plenty of room. There are nine of us in 16 x 16 square. We like our prospects for passing the winter first rate. The only war news from here is the capture of fifty-five Rebels by a party of our Cav.

The Rebs. were just from Miss. They came to operate along the River, burn steamboats, &c. They came within five miles of this place when our Cav. got after them and gobbled the most of them, killing some ten or twelve. None of our boys was hurt.

The prisoners are here in the guardhouse. Some of them are glad of their capture, but most of them are regular cut-throat Bushwhackers. Not long ago the Rebels captured L. Anderson, the Congressman just elected from this district. Our forces took some of his neighbours and kept them as hostages for his safety. They have effected his exchange so he can take his seat instead of lying in some Southern prison. General Smith is very successful in keeping order in his department by his stringent measures of holding citizens responsible for any mischief done in their neighborhood. Some time ago a bridge was burned on the road between here and Union City. As the citizens took no pains to put out the fire he made them build the bridge as good as it was. The recent order from Gen. Hurlbut³⁸ pressing all the citizens of Memphis and throughout the department into the service is very popular among the soldiers.

Private Peter Fingle a member of our Co. is condemned to be shot next Dec. for cowardice at the Battle of Shiloh and desertion from the service June, 1862. There are measures being taken to have him reprieved and the sentence mitigated. His sentence is according to military law but he is the first Iowa soldier that has been sentenced to death for that offense. I hope he may be reprieved as it is hard to see an old comrade shot, though he is a worthless fellow.

If James has not sent the box hurry him up, as John's butter will soon be gone. The Paymaster is here and will pay us this week. I will have considerable to spare this time. I hope to hear from home soon. You might all immi-

³⁸ General Stephen A. Hurlbut, commander of Union forces around Memphis.

grate to California and get there before I heard of your going. Don't forget me altogether. This leaves us in good health. Hoping you enjoy the same blessing, I remain your affectionate son.

Columbus, Ky., Nov. 24th, '63

Dear Brother:

I received the box this morning all right. Frank also got a box of chickens, butter, pickles, eggs, &c. There are nine of us in a mess and the program is for each one to get something from home as long as we stay at this post. So we will live this winter. I think the Q. M. has been making a speculation of our rations, or we have got more appetite than formerly, as we have been scant of bread and groceries for some time. But if there is any cheating it will be found out pretty soon. We have generally had something to sell, but now we buy. However there is no danger of our going hungry as we have learned how to help ourselves when there is any need.

Our comrade that is under sentence of death has been reprieved one month. It will be the 4th of January now. The President will be petitioned to pardon him or mitigate the sentence. The effect of his sentence has done a great deal of good by way of restraining unruly men. They think military law is not to be trifled with where they put on the string as they do here. One of our boys that has spent most of his time in the guardhouse and has twice deserted is just returned to the Co. after being in prison all summer. Col. Shaw told him if he gets into the guardhouse any more he will have him shot. He means it. I forgot to send the likeness last time. I will try and not forget this time.

Mr. Wambaugh is still provost guard. He likes it very well and is in good health. I will give him some butter as I guess that is the instructions though I have not got any

letter in regard to it. We will have a Thanksgiving dinner as Frank and John have lots of chickens. It is almost too far to send such things as they can be had here at reasonable rates. I received a letter from father a short time ago. It was time as I began to think I was quite forgotten. I keep an account of how many letters I write and how many I receive. Since I was home I have written twenty and received five, so I am getting on nicely. Have you heard from the owner of Sec. 17? If so let me know how he proposes to sell or if at all.

There is some talk of enlisting in the Veteran Corps. Quite a number of the 14th will go in. For my part I will not until I finish my present term. The Colored Artillery offers more inducements than the Veteran Corps but I believe it is best to get out of the old first, then I can keep out if I choose.

I need not prolong my letter as news is scarce. With love to all I remain,

Columbus, Ky., Dec. 12th, [1863]

Dear Brother West:

Yours of Oct. 27 is just arrived so you see it has been mislaid somewhere a month or more. I should have answered it promptly if it had come direct but now that it is here I will send a few lines to let you know how we wave down this way. There has been considerable stir here for some time. There have been six or eight Regiments of eastern men passed through Columbus. They stayed a few days, just long enough to see what kind of chaps they were. There was a New York City Reg. mostly Dutch and Irish, fond of lager and whiskey, consequently fond of fighting among themselves and spreeing generally.

One Reg't. was from New Jersey. They belong to the Zuave [Zouave] persuasion. The only difference between

them and other soldiers is in dress. Being comically dressed they think they should be comic all through and as a general thing they are a harum scarum set. Then there was Penn. Cav., riding the poorest horses imaginable and if a Cav. Reg. has poor horses they make a poor appearance and I think they cannot hurt the enemy much. We think it is the intention to clean out the Rebs. in this part of the country and open this road to Corinth. Perhaps we may be sent out, but we hope to stay in our comfortable cabins till spring. The weather has not been much cold yet but it is rather rainy and disagreeable for camping now.

I don't think there is much chance for a fight out on the road as there cannot be much of a Rebel force out there. There are plenty of guerillas, however, and some of them are brought in every few days. We send them to Rock Island now. Some of our boys went up there this week with a lot that were captured last week.

It is hard to get on a trip of that kind as so many want to go. Well, West, there is nothing more only that we are all well and having very good times. Please write again. Perhaps your letter may come sooner next time. I need not write to Father this week as this will do for all. I will write a longer letter next time. I am on guard today and it is nearly time for my relief to go to duty.

Columbus, Ky., Dec. 19th, 1863

Dear Parents:

I have been writing to one and another pretty often lately but it is nearly a month since I have written to you, so I will send you a few lines this time though I have nothing of importance to mention. We have had some rough weather lately almost as bad as in Iowa. There is no snow but there was plenty of rain and now quite hard frost. The Regs. that were passing through had very uncomfortable times in their

little shelter tents. I think there is force enough gone out into Tenn. to clean out all the Rebels in this part of the country. The most of the troops that have gone out are Eastern men and perhaps they may get the worst of it. If the Army of the Potomac is like the Eastern men that are in this Division no wonder Richmond is not taken but they may do in this district as the Rebs. that they will find are of the guerilla mixed with conscript breed and don't make a very hard fight as a general thing.

There was some talk of putting the 14th in a Brigade with the Eastern men but I think it will not be done now as they have gone and we will likely stay in Columbus. I never want to have anything to do with such men as they are. They mostly came out for the large bounties paid in New York and Jersey and care little about anything else.

How is it about the draft in Tama? Will there be enough of volunteers to keep it off? It seems land is looking up as the owner of 17 wants \$3.50 for the unbroken and \$6.00 for the broken. I presume Uncle David has concluded to stay where he is. It is not likely land will get cheaper as the prospect for a peace is becoming brighter and no doubt Iowa will soon settle up when the war is over. It don't seem possible for the Rebs. to hold out more than till next summer. Don't you think the Abolitionists are having things as they want them now? They will soon pay negro soldiers the same as white and level things generally. There are some furious debates between the Dem. and Rep. about it. I see the white officers of the 2nd Tenn. Colored Art. are as much respected here as any other officers and put on as much style as Regulars.

There are some Democrat soldiers very much opposed to Negro equality. Still they think they may as well grin and bear it. They sometimes cuss old Abe &c but there are four of our strong Democrats of Co. G reënlisted for three years.

It seemed at one time as if the 14th would go in as a Veteran Reg. That would require two-thirds of the men. Perhaps they may get that many but they have not yet. For my part I mean to finish my present term and then quit the business if I keep in my present way of thinking.

I see they agitate the question of giving us the same bounty as those that are enlisting now. I hope they may as we deserve it as much as the rest. There is nothing more worth writing so I will close.

Columbus, Ky., Dec. 28th, 1863

Dear Father:

I take this opportunity of sending a few lines to let you know that we are all well and putting in the time as agreeably as possible. We are having a wet time just now but our camp is on high ground so the mud is not bad only in town. Columbus, though not as low as Cairo, is on a flat piece of ground and in wet weather is muddy enough. Our camp is almost as high above Columbus as Balcary was above the Fishhouse. If there was anything to look at the view would be good from the bluff but nothing only an occasional steamboat or gunboat disturbs the sameness of the prospect.

Negro sentinels walk their beat on the fortifications, which no one would have thought of a short time ago but now is looked upon as indifferently as if it had been so from the first. Everything goes on with as much regularity as in times of peace. The colored men do all the heavy work such as unloading boats and putting the goods on the train to be sent out to the Army at Union City. The darkies save us some hard work in that line besides taking care of the Fort. They could not be spared from here without the same number of troops of some kind taking their place.

You seem to have but a poor opinion of soldiering. There

is no mistake but the majority of soldiers are a hard set. It would be hard for you to imagine anything worse than they are. They have every temptation to do wrong and if a man has not firmness enough to keep from the excesses common to soldiers he will soon be as bad as the worst. If it were not that the Army is principally made up of such men I would like it much better. I have no serious intention of remaining any longer than my time is up, unless I can make it pay [something]. Sometimes I think if I come home I cannot stay but I can try. I know there are sometimes circumstances that make a man wish he never had enlisted, but there are trials and troubles other places besides the Army. There is one thing certain, the Army will either make a man better or worse morally speaking. There are men in Co. G that have reformed greatly in regard to drinking, swearing, &c. Others have become confirmed drunkards, thieves, &c. As you seem to wish it I will promise to come home if spared till my time is up unless something unlooked for comes up. I must answer Jane's letter so goodbye.

Columbus, Ky., Dec. 28th, 1863

Dear Sister Jane:

I have been a little slow in answering your letter, but there is so little to write it don't make much difference. Writing letters is dry work when one is situated as I am. If you were acquainted with this place as I am at home there would be more to tell but as that is not so you must make allowance for the dullness of my letters. There is little change in our duties or drill or anything else. Since we came to Columbus it has generally been light, two days per week is the average time on guard and an hour's battalion drill in the afternoon is about all we have to do. There is a good deal of time to read, write, or anything that

suits the fancy. I have read considerable ancient history this winter. I have tried to study grammar but something is sure to turn the attention from anything like study. It is impossible to keep long at any one thing, there is so much noise and bustle but there is always some in every family that won't learn. The fact is I don't like to study and never can hope to overcome the dislike I have to any kind of study, except Hardie's Tactics and Army Regulations. I don't like them but must study them so as not to be behind the times.

If I leave the Army in ten months it will not be necessary for me to get very well posted on military matters.

I suppose by this time you have a recruiting sergt. among you. We may look for some of our neighbours down here before long, if they don't put the draft farther away. It was a fortunate thing for Frank to get home so as his expenses are paid and he wanted to go very much. One of the boys got more butter from home today. We have quite a fund ahead now from the rations we sell. We are pretty economical in our household affairs and make the most of everything. We had a very fine Christmas dinner principally chickens. The boys went out a few miles one night on a chicken expedition and were mistaken for guerillas by the Cavalry. They had to take to the woods until the Cav. was gone. They came in with full hands but tired of being chased by our own Cav. I think it is not the first time mistakes of that kind have been made. Every thing is laid to guerillas no matter who does it. I must finish for this time so good bye.

Columbus, Ky., Jan. 12th, 1864

Dear Parents:

I take the present opportunity of letting you know how I get along. There is still the same report to make, all quiet

at Columbus. The snow is beginning to melt today. Kentuckians say they never saw so steady freezing weather so long as it has been this time. It was not very uncomfortable for us but the troops that are in tents must have suffered considerably. I suppose the 6th Division will leave this district in a month or so, at least so goes the report. If we stay a little longer the worst of the winter is past and we can get along anywhere in summer. But it is time enough to speculate about leaving. One of our guardhouse recruits that is a Secesh soldier enlisted from the guardhouse into our Army. There are a good many such in the 14th. Well last night one of them deserted and tried to steal a horse from the Cavalry pickets. There are three pickets at each post. The one on duty saw him slip up to the horses and fired at him. He turned to run but had not ran far before he fell. The picket shot him three times. Either shot would have killed him.

I got a letter from Frank Thomas last night. It is the only one from Buckingham for some time. I don't hear of Perry's recruits this time. I hope Perry may do their share without drafting. It seems recruiting is not quite useless yet in Iowa. It will be quite a difference to see so many in our Company. The 14th will be a mixture of Kentucky recruits, Iowa recruits, and Veterans. There won't be many discharged when the three years is expired if the bounty is still offered. There is nothing of importance to write so I will finish for this time.

On board the Steamboat Fanny

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 24th, 1864

Dear Parents:

I take this opportunity of letting you know that we are so far on our expedition. We have not learned our destination but the rumor is that we are going a visiting to Mobile. If so I presume we will join a large force down the River, but

I need not anticipate, time enough when we get there to see. Our Brigade came down on four boats and there was exciting times to see which boat would get to Memphis first. We started last and passed two of the boats on the first evening. We overtook the third in the morning and tried to pass but could not do it. The two boats ran within speaking distance for half a day and got in, in 20 hours from the time we started. It was the best time I have seen. And we enjoyed it very much. Our fleet is anchored out in the River to keep the men out of mischief. If we could go ashore here the citizens would suffer, so to keep the peace they keep us on the boats.

You need not expect to hear from me often now. I will try and send a few lines from N. Orleans.

Vicksburg, Miss., Jan. 29th, 1864

Dear Father:

I take the earliest opportunity after getting a peep at the places of interest to let you know that I am well. We left Columbus on the 21st and landed yesterday, the 28th. We had fine sunny weather and enjoyed the trip very much. I might make an attempt to describe the places along the River but the chance to write is so poor owing to the confusion of fixing to move the camp that I will pass over with a glance at one or two places.

There is very little to see along the River now. Most of the plantations are deserted and destroyed. Some places the rows of brick chimneys standing where the houses were burned are the only mark to guess at the size of the plantation. Helena is the only place of consequence between Memphis and Vicksburg. Like most of the River towns it is too low to be healthy. Colored soldiers seem to be the principal part of the population.

Vicksburg is the best location I have seen since we left

Columbus. It has the merit of being high and dry. It is very bluff where the fighting took place, so much so I don't see how they could hurt one another much. The Rebels had their holes to get into from the shells and no other kind of balls could touch them in their works. It is quite interesting to see the places of safety the people had fixed. I presume when traveling on the River becomes safe curiosity seekers will visit Vicksburg and find it the most interesting place on the River. There is an endless amount of fortifications. It is stronger now than it was when the Rebels held it. There has been a great amount of fortifying done since it came into our hands. There is one Iowa Brigade here besides ours. They have reënlisted in the Veterans, and mean to stick to Uncle Samuel to the end of Rebellion. There were eight Inft. Regt's., three Batteries, and four Cavalry Reg'ts. in this force that came down the River. The Inft. and Art. are here, the Cav. is coming by land. It is likely all the troops up that way are on the move. We don't know whether we go out to Jackson or farther down. We expect to stay here a week or two. The roads are dry now, rivers low, and perhaps we may move on immediately. The Reg't. is in good health and fine spirits. I mean to enjoy myself if I keep well through this campaign. I will write as often as convenient but you need not expect regularity in my letters.

Canton, Miss., Feb. 27, 1864

Dear Parents:

I take the earliest opportunity since we left Vicksburg of sending a few lines to let you know that I am well. We left Vicksburg and marched to Meridian, Miss., by way of Jackson, Brandon, Hillsboro, & Decatur. We tore up railroads at all points along the route, burned cotton and other Confederate property. We lived upon the country and have lived well. There is no enemy of consequence in this State.

I have been with the foraging party of our Brigade all the way and only in one skirmish and no one was hurt. We had some brisk skirmishing every day from Black River to Meridian. The Rebels retreated all the way before us and seldom had time to burn bridges, we kept so close to them.

I am writing by the camp fire and you must not expect a decent letter till I get time to write. I think we will come to the River in a few days. We have any number of darkies, mules, horses, &c. There is some party going to Big Black tomorrow and I take the chance to send this. We have had fine weather, good roads, and marched near three hundred miles and are in good trim, no sick nor none wounded. Some few of the Reg. have been taken prisoner but I must finish.

You may hear from me soon and it may be some time but I am doing well and will write again as soon as possible. This is Confederate paper.

On board the Steamer W. L. Ewing

Grand Echo, Red River, La., April 4th, 1864

Dear Parents:

I don't know as you will know by all the above just where we are at present. If you look on the map you will see a place called Natchitoches. It is a few miles from this place on the old bed of a river now called Cane River. Well I may as well begin by saying that since the little affair at D. Rucy³⁹ nothing of importance has been done unless it is being done now. There has been some skirmishing for the last two days and this morning a force went up to engage the Rebels if they still wait. I know nothing of the prospect for a general battle up here but I think it is very unlikely.

³⁹ The Union forces had captured Fort DeRussey, Mississippi, on March 14, 1864.

Banks⁴⁰ is with us now and I presume we outnumber the Rebels too much to get them to give us battle. The probability is that as soon as Banks can safely spare our Div. we will join our Corps at Vicksburg or Memphis. Then rumor says we may go to the East or into Georgia, but time enough to go there when we finish this expedition. The 28th and 24th Iowa are in this Army, but I have seen none but A. Felter yet. I may see Col. Connel before we come down the River.

I like field service much better than I did garrison. We have marched part of the way on this trip and sailed the rest. We don't burn and destroy as on the Miss. raid but take only such things as we need to eat. This is the finest country I have seen in the South. The land is good and all the planters are or have been wealthy. There are some few Union men still in the country and I think there is some chance of restoring order to this country by keeping some gunboats along the River and letting those who will go ahead and raise cotton, sugar, &c. There are few men but will mind their own interest and certainly the Red River farmers can make money by coming under the protection of Uncle Sam.

I received a letter from James the 26th of last month, dated March 6th and have heard nothing later. There are few chances of sending mail and few of getting it. John Thomas has been down with fever for a few days but I think he is past the worst. The rest of us are in good health. I might go on and write a long letter but the deck hands are chopping rails below and jarring so I must finish. I will try and write again when there is another chance to send a letter.

⁴⁰ General Nathaniel P. Banks. There was much criticism of his handling of the expedition and he was soon afterwards replaced. Details of the capture of Peter Wilson are not given.

Texas, April 25th, 1864

Dear Parents:

I take this opportunity of informing you that I am a prisoner of war,⁴¹ in good health, well treated, and hoping to get out in due time. You need not write to me at present.

Your affect Son,

Peter Wilson

List of prisoners of Co. G, 14th Iowa, taken at
Pleasant Hills, April 9th, 1864

Lieut. A. H. Hazlett	H. Brownell
Peter Wilson	C. Vimpeny
Joel Shopshire	Hiram Aurner Co. B
W. S. Townsend	[Meroni] Clark " "
D. C. Vail	John A. Kleber " D
George Loucks	Joseph Gillet " F
P. J. Cook	W. D. Goben " K
Wm. Nance	W. B. Gray " "

Please send a copy of this list to the Reg.

Jan. 10th⁴²

Tomorrow they start for our lines. Two months from this time I can hear from you if all goes well. Tell Frank I would write to him if I had paper and I want him to write and let me know how many of the old part of the Co. were discharged with him and how they spent the summer &c. I may not be here to get the letters but if I should not the loss is not great. You have concluded by this time that I

⁴¹ Peter Wilson was captured at the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, on April 9, 1864. How this letter was gotten out of the Confederate lines is not explained. It was written on a small piece of paper.

⁴² This letter has no place given and the year is omitted, but it appears to have been written in 1865 while Peter Wilson was still a prisoner of war in Texas. It was apparently written to his brother and business associate, James Wilson. From his instructions about secret writing it seems that this letter was uncensored.

won't get home in time to farm this summer. Perhaps I may get home by harvest time. You must be your own judge of how to manage with reference to my absence. If I get out this spring I will have four or five hundred in Greenbacks. If I must stay longer I will have more. If you buy land or anything else, whatever you do it will be all right as far as I am concerned.

When you write, if there is anything you wish to say that would not do to be seen by the Rebels, write with onion juice on the last page. It can be read by the fire and is invisible by daylight. Send me some spare paper so I can write again and do your secret writing on it. Let me know something of war matters if you think it can be done in the way I mention. They only publish such things as suits their fancy in the Texas papers. We don't know how Grant is progressing at Richmond, but we know that Sherman and Thomas have done well, also that Pap Price⁴³ came back from Mo. in a used up condition.

Give my respects to inquiring friends and love to Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, and hoping to soon get on the soil that is not cursed by the presence of a Rebel, I remain your affect Brother

New Orleans, La., May 28th [1865]

Dear Father:

I take the first opportunity of informing you of my return to the land of the living, for I have been in all respects dead for the past 13 months. Well thank God it is past now and as I have seen the Confederacy go to pieces it is some satisfaction for my long imprisonment. It seems almost a dream that we are really out of Texas and the war over, but perhaps I will get used to it in a short time. We just got out of Texas in time as the Rebel authority is gone and we had

⁴³ The Confederate leader, Sterling Price.

some difficulty in getting rations on the way out. Everything is confusion up Red River. There is likely to be trouble among the Rebels if our forces don't go up soon and take charge.

It is astonishing to see the change that has taken place among the people in regard to the Union. It is the universal talk. We are glad that the thing is over and they generally express satisfaction that the Union is restored. I will not write much this time. Perhaps in a few days we will be on the way up the River. I will lose no time in coming home as soon as I get my discharge. We will likely remain a few days at Davenport, and you may write to me in care of D. McCosh, Long Grove &c. Tell James also to write. If we don't get away from here in a few days I will write again. Let me know Brother John's address and how he is getting on. I am in good health and hope to be fit for duty when I get home. With love to all I remain, your Affect Son,

Peter Wilson

Perry, June 12, 1865

Dear Brother:⁴⁴

It was with feelings of joy and thankfulness that we received your letter last mail. I cannot imagine the feelings that daily possessed you in your dreary confinement. Probably you cannot imagine our feelings while you were there. I wrote you several letters not expecting much you would ever get them, but hope induced me to try. Once I sent you ten dollars. Folks said it would be surely lost but I consid-

⁴⁴ This letter, written by James Wilson to Peter Wilson in reply to the letter announcing Peter's release from the Confederate prison, was included in the collection and is printed with the Peter Wilson letters because it gives briefly the conditions at home. Peter returned to take up work on his farm. In 1870 he married Miss Emma Lawson. Seven children were born of this marriage — John L., Mary W., Sheridan S., Andrew C., Nellie (Mrs. John Randolph Currens), Grace G., and Peter L. Peter Wilson died on April 23, 1887.

ered it my especial business to leave no stone unturned. Father and Mother have suffered a great deal on your account. Father especially bore suspense in silence. In fact your detention has been common talk in the neighborhood, "any word from Peter", "any word from Pete", any word from your brother &c &c was the continual question. The prayers of your friends, of our Minister, the desires of all your friends was that you might be spared to return and who can tell what effect the effectual fervent prayers of righteous man may have had at the source of all our blessings. But it is over and I hope that in some way it may work for your good.

There has been a great many changes since you left, a great many folks have come into the place. The face of the prairie has been considerably changed, new houses on some farms, new breaking, new fences, some that you were acquainted with are dead, though God has spared those who are near and dear to you. Grandfather Wilson and Grandmother McCosh are gone, several in this place, Mrs. Bywerth, George Shiner's wife, John Leffler. W. Hough has sold & gone to Kansas. D. D. Wartson has sold to a relation of Uncle McMillan's and bought the old Connell farm. Hiram Klingaman has sold to Pearson & left. A family of Stevensons have moved around Collins grove. A Mr. Wilson from Illinois has bought the land west of Uncle West's and is improving [it]. George Sloss & John Tenan talk of coming back to this place from Shell Rock. A Scotch family named Lawson have bought Fox's place and nearly all those mentioned have connected with the church. We have just had a very edifying communion season. Mr. Fulton from Cedar Rapids preached for us.

If you got my last letter you will have some idea of our financial affairs. I bought ten acres of timber from Jonas Wood. It is young and for future use. Then I bought forty

acres in Four Mile Grove, half pretty good timber. Then I bought a tract of timber from Uncle McMillan that will fence up all our land. The timber is all paid for. Last winter after a great deal of trouble and expense by finally going to Illinois I bought the quarter section south of our old eighty. I borrowed the money (800) to pay for it. I have got the house finished upstairs and down. Uncle Andrew and I bought a mowing machine and paid for it. I built a two-horse cultivator this spring on wheels so you can ride or walk. Have 20 head of cattle, 7 head horses, 36 head hogs, plenty of corn, and half last year's wheat. I am building the pasture fence. I told you I have Robert Dodd hired till harvest. Finally have just succeeded since you went to war in getting the place ready to pay well,

your Affectionate Brother James

HARVEY BOYD DUNCAN

FROM MISSOURI TO IOWA

Considerable attention has been given to the boundary dispute between Missouri and Iowa which was officially settled by the United States Supreme Court decree of January 3, 1851.¹ Among the persons residing in the 2,600-square-mile area,² who were affected by the Court's decree, was a former Kentuckian who had recently served as Mercer County's State Representative in the Missouri legislature. This man was Harvey Boyd Duncan, who had settled in what is now the southwestern part of Wayne County, Iowa, a decade before the boundary controversy was adjusted. Having lost his status as a Missourian by judicial decree he found himself a resident of the State of Iowa. Less than two years later he took his seat as a member of the House of Representatives in the Iowa General Assembly.

Duncan was one of at least nine children born to a Revolutionary War veteran, John Duncan, and his wife, Mary Laughlin Duncan.³ Family tradition places his birthplace in either southwestern Virginia or southeastern Kentucky.

¹ A summarization of the literature on the boundary controversy is contained in Claude S. Larzelere's *The Iowa-Missouri Disputed Boundary* in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. III, pp. 77-84. See also Erik M. Eriksson's *The Boundaries of Iowa* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXV, pp. 163-235, and *Report Made by Albert Miller Lea on the Iowa-Missouri Boundary* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 246-259. Additional references are given in Wm. J. Petersen's *A Reference Guide to Iowa History*, pp. 32, 51.

² Eriksson's *The Honey War* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. V, p. 339.

³ This John Duncan was born in 1765 and died in 1832. Mary Laughlin Duncan was born in 1767 and died in 1846.—Flora Woltz's *The Duncan Family Made Early History* in the *Lineville Tribune*, March 24, 1932, p. 1.

This seems to be based on the fact that both his father, John Duncan, Jr., and his grandfather, John Duncan, Sr., who had died in 1817, had settled at Martin's Station, Kentucky, during the Revolutionary War. A granduncle of Harvey Boyd Duncan was Major Benjamin Sharp.⁴

Details of the early life of Harvey Boyd Duncan are exceedingly meager. His grave marker in Evergreen Cemetery at Lineville, Iowa, records that he was born in 1800. He seems to have been married before he reached his majority, for his marriage bond was executed in Whitley County, Kentucky, on October 12, 1820.⁵ His bride was his cousin, Eliza Laughlin, a daughter of Col. Thomas Laughlin. Other references to him in the Whitley County records indicate that he participated in some land transactions⁶ and served as an executor of two estates.⁷

One of the land transactions, dated January 11, 1827, mentions him and his wife as being residents of Monroe County, Tennessee, indicating that he may have left Kentucky after his marriage and lived for a time in Tennessee. In 1828, he bought land in Whitley County from his wife's kinsmen, John S. and Thomas Laughlin.⁸ There is no record of any political activity prior to his coming to Missouri and Iowa.

Duncan was one of the first permanent settlers in what is

⁴ *Will Book "B"*, p. 418, Washington County, Virginia; Woltz's *The Duncan Family Made Early History* in the *Lineville Tribune*, March 24, 1932, p. 1.

⁵ Original document on file in the office of the District Court, Whitley County, Kentucky.

⁶ *Record Book*, I, pp. 154, 267, in the office of the District Court, Whitley County, Kentucky.

⁷ Harvey Boyd Duncan was executor of the estate of his father, John Duncan, Jr., whose will was filed on April 4, 1832, and of the estate of Sarah Berry whose will was filed on July 27, 1834.—See *Index to Will Books*, Whitley County, Kentucky.

⁸ *Record Book*, I, p. 267, in the office of the District Court, Whitley County, Kentucky.

now Wayne County, Iowa. One source⁹ implies that he was the third head of a household to locate permanently in that locality, he and his family having arrived on November 13, 1841, after a two-months' journey from Kentucky. His predecessors, states this writer, were D. S. Duncan (a brother) and H. P. Sullivan who arrived in April, 1840. A slightly different account is given by B. F. Gue,¹⁰ who records that Duncan accompanied the other two men to Iowa in 1840. The author of the obituary of Duncan's son-in-law, Joseph Lovett, wrote in 1909 that the group, including H. B. and D. S. Duncan and Sullivan, left Whitley County in 1840 and arrived at their destination in 1841.¹¹

At the time Harvey Boyd Duncan arrived in the area claimed by both the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa, neither Wayne County, Iowa, nor Mercer County, Missouri (south of the State line, opposite Wayne County), had been organized. In 1841, the Missouri legislature organized Grundy County and attached the area lying to the north, later included in Mercer County, to it for civil and military purposes. On February 14, 1845, Mercer County was organized and legal machinery was set up to enable this area to function as part of the State of Missouri. During this period Harvey Boyd Duncan considered himself a citizen of Missouri and in 1848 he was elected as Mercer County's second Representative in the Missouri General Assembly. In politics he belonged to the Whig party.¹²

⁹ *Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa* (Chicago, 1886), p. 491.

¹⁰ B. F. Gue's *History of Iowa*, Vol. III, p. 425.

¹¹ *Joseph Lovett, Pioneer Here, Host of Old Time Tavern*, in the *Lineville Tribune*, June 17, 1909, p. 1. It is possible that these men made two trips, as settlers often did, one to look at the land and a second when they moved their families to the new location.

¹² *History of Harrison and Mercer Counties, Missouri* (St. Louis and Chicago, 1888), pp. 189, 402, 403, 405, 411.

In the meantime the Territory of Iowa and later the State of Iowa had maintained its claim to a strip of land lying between the line it claimed as its southern boundary and the line claimed by Missouri as its northern boundary. Under the jurisdiction of Michigan Territory the area occupied by the Duncan family had been included in Demoine County. Subsequent laws establishing counties in Iowa left this area without county government so far as Iowa was concerned until 1846 when Wayne County was created and attached to Appanoose County for judicial, revenue, and electoral purposes. Formal organization of Wayne County did not take place until February 13, 1851.¹³

By this time the United States Supreme Court decision of January 3, 1851, had settled the prolonged dispute between Iowa and Missouri.¹⁴ The land upon which Harvey Boyd Duncan had settled was declared to be part of the State of Iowa and consequently it was a part of Wayne County. Duncan at once took his place in the life of the new county to which he had been transferred. As a Missourian he had owned a number of negro slaves. When he learned that he was a resident of a free State, he notified these servants that they were free, but it is recorded that they remained with him and "received a good education for those times".¹⁵ This action on the part of the former slaves and the fact that Duncan evidently had not feared that they would take advantage of their proximity to freedom across the State line indicate that the master-slave relationship must have been of a rather satisfactory nature.

¹³ Jacob A. Swisher's *History of the Organization of the Counties in Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XX, pp. 524, 525; *Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa*, pp. 491, 492.

¹⁴ *Missouri v. Iowa*, 48 U. S., 660; 51 U. S., 1.

¹⁵ *Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa*, pp. 555, 556.

Duncan was apparently a man of note in his community and the men who were organizing Wayne County recognized his ability. On January 27, 1851, only about three weeks after the Supreme Court rendered its decree the county commissioners divided the county into four electoral precincts and Duncan was named as one of the three judges in his precinct.

Some three months later, on March 17, 1851, he was named postmaster of Grand River, later Lineville. On August 4, 1851, the first election was held in Wayne County for county officers. Harvey Boyd Duncan was elected supervisor of roads, receiving 26 out of a total of 42 votes cast for that office. A year later he was elected school fund commissioner, receiving 69 votes.¹⁶

When the general election was held on August 2, 1852, H. B. Duncan was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives by voters in a district composed of Appanoose, Wayne, and Decatur counties.¹⁷ The capital of Iowa was then at Iowa City and thither Duncan traveled to attend the session which began on December 6, 1852. His work in the House began December 9 — three days after the convening of the legislature — when he gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill¹⁸ to authorize the residents of Decatur County to locate their county seat permanently. A careful reading of the House *Journal* indicates that this bill, introduced on December 14th, was the only one of the several

¹⁶ *Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa*, pp. 492, 497. The office of supervisor of roads was created as a county office by the *Code of 1851*, but was transferred to the townships in 1853.— *Code of 1851*, Sec. 96; *Laws of Iowa, 1852-1853*, pp. 79-83.

¹⁷ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 1852-1853*, p. 4. The complications which grew out of attempts to recognize shifts in population are illustrated by the fact that at the same election "Abraham Putman" (Abram B. Putnam) was listed as representing the district composed of Davis, Appanoose, Wayne, and Decatur counties.

¹⁸ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 1852-1853*, pp. 29, 55, 391.

bills sponsored by Representative Duncan to be passed and sent to the Governor for his signature during the session. Another measure he sponsored was one to promote improved roads in southern Iowa.¹⁹ On December 28th he gave notice of his intention to introduce a joint resolution asking Congress to establish a mail route from Lineville in Wayne County to Chariton in Lucas County, and also a route from Lineville to Princeton, Missouri.²⁰

Like other members of the House at this time, Duncan displayed interest in railroad promotion and on January 5, 1853, gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to grant a right-of-way to a company which was to build a railroad from Lineville to Fort Des Moines.²¹ There is no record that he presented any petition or memorial. It may be of interest to note that one of Duncan's colleagues in the House was James W. Grimes, later to become United States Senator and who refused to vote in favor of the impeachment conviction of President Andrew Johnson.

After adjournment of the legislature on January 24, 1853, Duncan returned home from Iowa City and resumed his duties as postmaster of Grand River. He served until December 6, 1855.²² He was unsuccessful in his candidacy for the office of State Senator in 1856, being defeated by John W. Warner by a margin of 82 votes. When the township system of supervisors was restored in 1861 he represented his township on the county board of supervisors.²³

¹⁹ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1852-1853, pp. 79, 87.

²⁰ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1852-1853, p. 115.

²¹ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1852-1853, p. 166.

²² Communication from Ambrose O'Connell, First Assistant Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., dated February 8, 1941. This post office continued to be known as "Grand River" until August 16, 1872, when the name of the post office was changed to Lineville, the name long used for the town. Later, another post office named Grand River was established in Decatur County.

²³ *Biographical and Historical Record of Wayne and Appanoose Counties, Iowa*, pp. 498, 506.

He died on May 11, 1861, following an illness for which he had received medical attention since the beginning of the year. According to the inventory filed by the executors of his will, he left notes and accounts due him totaling \$1609 and personal property valued at \$1342. In addition to his widow, Eliza Laughlin Duncan, there were nine other heirs.²⁴

He was buried first in the Duncan family burying ground, one and one-fourth miles northeast of Lineville, on the farm of his son John. Here the body lay until about 1890 when the remains were exhumed and transferred to the Evergreen Cemetery in Lineville where they were interred beside the grave of his wife who died "about 1879".²⁵ The plain, old-fashioned slab-type marker that had marked his grave in the Duncan burying ground was not re-erected until June 25, 1939, about a half-century later. At that time several collateral relatives of Duncan, including the writer, transferred the marker from its place of storage and erected it to mark their kinsman's grave, acting in accordance with directions furnished by Mr. Samuel Vandel and Duncan's granddaughters, Mrs. Josie Duncan Judd and Mrs. Ellen Duncan Cravens.²⁶

JOSEPH G. DUNCAN

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
EAST LANSING MICHIGAN

²⁴ *Probate Record Book*, "B", pp. 448-460, Wayne County, Iowa.

²⁵ Interview with Samuel Vandel, Lineville, on June 25, 1939; affidavit made by B. B. Cravens on January 8, 1912, filed in the recorder's office, Wayne County, on January 26, 1938, in *Recorder's Miscellaneous Book*, No. 6, p. 384.

²⁶ Credit for the discovery of the grave marker, on the farm originally owned by Harvey Boyd Duncan, should be extended to Mr. Samuel Vandel. Those who aided in erecting the stone were Mr. Harvey G. Duncan and Mr. Henry G. Duncan.

SOME PUBLICATIONS

The Man Who Sold Louisiana. By E. Wilson Lyon. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press. 1942. Pp. 240. Plates, maps. This is the biography of François Barbé-Marbois, the Frenchman whose name is associated with the largest single addition to the territory of the United States, the purchase of French Louisiana. But Marbois's career touched the United States at other points. He visited America during the Revolution; he served as French Chargé d'Affaires in the United States for two years following the close of the war and during that time he married an American girl, Elizabeth Moore; and he served as Intendant of the French government in St. Domingue. But this life of Marbois illustrates the vicissitudes of life in France. He was born February 1, 1745. His family name was Barbé, but as a young man he assumed the additional title "de Marbois" (from Maré du bois", a wooded pond at Woippy, owned by the family). Barbé-Marbois saw service under Louis XVI, was deported to Guiana by the Directory, was Minister of the Treasury under Napoleon, became one of the ministers under Louis XVIII, was created Marquis de Marbois in 1818, and died on January 12, 1837. The volume has copious notes and an index.

Our Landed Heritage The Public Domain 1776-1936. By Roy Marvin Robbins. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press. 1942. Pp. 450. Plates, maps. The disposal of the public domain was, for over a century and a half, one of the most important factors in the evolution of the United States. In no other time or place has so much natural wealth been transferred to private citizens by government action. This volume presents in four sections an interesting and valuable history of this vast real estate deal. The first part presents the story of the settler and the land, the westward movement of Americans, preëmption, and the demand for free land. It is primarily the story of the disposal of agricultural land in the Middle West. Part two is entitled "The West Welcomes the Corporation". It includes the story of the organized effort to secure

European settlers, the development of public and private improvements, such as canals, roads, steamboat transportation, and railroads, the part of the public lands and resources in the struggle over slavery, and the economic effect of the rapid settlement of so much productive land. The third section deals largely with the streamlined development of natural resources. This includes the acquisition of water power, mines, forests, and grazing lands, especially in the West, by corporations interested only in their exploitation. The fourth section is the story of the evolution of the doctrine of conservation of natural resources. The volume gives an interesting and valuable picture of the disposal of the natural wealth of this nation. A selective bibliography and an index add to the usefulness of this attractive and valuable volume.

The *Indiana History Bulletin* for August, 1942, contains a brief article on *War History in Indiana*.

The Antislavery Controversy in Missouri 1819-1865, by Benjamin Merkel, has been published as one of the abstracts in the series of *Washington University Doctoral Dissertations*.

The July issue of *Mid-America* contains *Gilbert J. Garraghan: In Memoriam*, a brief biographical sketch of Father Gilbert J. Garraghan, S. J., prominent in mid-west historical activities.

The Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio has recently published *The Courses of the Ohio River taken by Lt. T. Hutchins Anno 1776 and Two Accompanying Maps*, edited by Beverly W. Bond, Jr.

The third number in Volume I of *Bulletins of the American Association for State and Local History* contains *Using Volunteers in the Local Historical Society's Program*, by Loring McMillen, Director of the Staten Island Historical Society.

"*Wartime Duties of Historical Museums*", an address by L. Hubbard Shattuck, Director of the Chicago Historical Society, at a meeting of the American Association of Museums at Williamsburg, Virginia, on May 18, 1942, has been published in pamphlet form.

Squire Boone, an address by Willard Rouse Jillson; *Samuel McDowell's Letters To Andrew Reid*, transcribed for publication by Otto A. Rothert; and *George Rogers Clark — A Mason*, by Allen M. Reager, are three contributions in *The Filson Club History Quarterly* for July.

This Ohio of Ours Our Historic Indian Tribes, by Richard G. Morgan, is one of the short articles in *Museum Echoes* for June, 1942. The July number contains *The Coming of the White Man*, by William D. Overman, and the August issue *Ohio Becomes a State*, also by Mr. Overman.

A continuation of *The Canadian Halfbreed Rebellions Of 1870 And 1885*, by Sister Ursula Dunlevy; *The Dakota Indian Victory-Dance*, by Aaron McGaffey Beede; and *Study Of Population Trends In North Dakota*, by J. M. Gillette, are three articles and papers in the April number of the *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*.

Recent Developments In Economic History, by Herbert Heaton; *Competition Among Grains In Classical Antiquity*, by N. Jasny; *Doctors Of Philosophy In History*, by William B. Hesseltine and Louis Kaplan; and *Civilian Defense and Academic Deferment*, by Dorothy Mackay Quynn, are articles and papers in the July number of *The American Historical Review*.

The July number of *Agricultural History* contains the following three articles: *Agricultural History and the Department of Agriculture*, by Everett E. Edwards; *French-Canadian Agriculture In The St. Lawrence Valley, 1815-1850*, by Robert Leslie Jones; and *Pehr Kalm's Observations on Black Walnut and Butternut Trees*, by Esther Louise Larsen.

Volume XX of the *South Dakota Historical Collections* includes a study, *The Administration of the Public Domain in South Dakota*, by Charles Lowell Green; *An Early Dakota Camp Meeting*, by O. S. Bryan; *History of the Range Cattle Industry of Dakota*, by Hazel Adele Pulling; and *Reminiscences of Thomas A. Robertson* (including incidents in the Sioux outbreak of 1862).

The Superintendent's Annual Address, 1941, by Addison E.

Sheldon; *The Pioneers*, by Madeleine Packard Brown; part IV of *Music of the Pioneer Days in Nebraska*, compiled by Miriam Stanley Carleton-Squires; *The Early History of Music at Crete, Nebraska*, by George H. Aller; and *Nebraska's First Territorial Legislature*, by David M. Johnston, are articles in *Nebraska History* for July-September, 1941.

Chats With The Editor, by Edward P. Alexander; *Public Opinion In Wisconsin During World War I*, by Karen Falk; *Frederick Jackson Turner, Historian*, by Avery Craven; *Sheboygan County Out of a Wilderness*, by Gustave W. Buchen; *Newport Its Rise and Fall*, by E. C. Dixon; and a third installment of *Christian Traugott Ficker's Advice To Emigrants (III)* are the contributions in *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* for June.

The Sesquicentennial Commission of Kentucky has recently issued *Kentucky in Retrospect*, an attractive history of Kentucky in pamphlet form. The volume contains *A Chronological Table of Noteworthy Dates and Events in Kentucky History*, with numerous illustrations relating to Kentucky's history and lists of past and present officials and public men of Kentucky. There are also descriptions of early forts and stations.

The Story of John Deere A Saga of American Industry, written by Danagh Aldrich and illustrated by Harold L. Wilson, has been printed and distributed by Charles C. Webber, a grandson of the man who began life in 1804 in a Vermont village, became a cross-roads blacksmith, and died in 1886 leaving behind one of the largest manufacturing plants in the Middle West, the John Deere plant at Moline, Illinois, and a name known wherever plows are used.

The Middle Western Farm Novel, by John T. Flanagan; *With Cass in the Northwest in 1820 — The Journal of Charles C. Trowbridge*, edited by Ralph H. Brown; and *The Minnesota War History Committee*, by Lewis Beeson, are the three articles in the June number of *Minnesota History*. Under *Notes and Documents* there is *A Rindisbacher Water Color*, by Grace Lee Nute, and *A Bibliography Of Middle Western Farm Novels*, compiled by John T. Flanagan.

The Puritan and Fair Terpsichore, by Arthur C. Cole; *Face-tious News Writing, 1833-1883*, by Frank Luther Mott; *The German Element and the Issues of the Civil War*, by Andreas Dorpalen; *Two Letters from Kansas, 1855-1856*, edited by Charles L. Chandler; and *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Andrew Jackson's Birthplace*, an exchange of letters between the editor of the *Review* and Archibald Henderson and James W. Patton, are the articles and papers in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for June.

The Historical Society in War Time, by Richard L. Beyer; *A Forgotten Evanston Institution: The Northwestern Female College*, by Dwight F. Clark; *Did Abraham Lincoln Receive the Illinois German Vote?*, by Jay Monaghan; *The Unique Career of an Illinois Musician*, by Lorene Martin; *Audubon's "Journey up the Mississippi"*, edited by John Francis McDermott; and *The Illinois Historical Records Survey: A Bibliography of its Publications*, by Thomas R. Hall, are articles and papers in the June number of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. The *Historical Note* is *What's in a Name?* by Margaret Carlock Harris. *The Illinois Scrapbook* includes a *Directory of Illinois Opera Houses and Halls, 1870*.

The Impact of the Civil War upon Hoosier Society, by Kenneth M. Stampp; *Genesis and Early History of the Indianapolis Fund*, by Donald F. Carmony; *The Northwest Indians and the British Preceding the War of 1812*, by Cecil K. Byrd; *Indiana's Population, 1850-1940, Sources and Dispersal*, by Stephen S. Visser; *Indiana's Educational Heritage from its First Constitution*; and *Civil War Recollections*, by Henry C. Barnett, are articles and papers in the *Indiana Magazine of History* for March. Under *Documents* there are two contributions: *The First Wabash Song*, by Karl J. Arndt, and *Uniform of a Corydon Militia Company in 1823*, by Caroline Dunn. Joseph C. Wolf contributes *The Tools and Technique of Genealogical Research*.

Etienne Véniard de Bourgmond in the Missouri Company, by Henri Folmer; *The Marion College Episode in Northeast Missouri*

History, by Howard I. McKee; and *Father Timothy Dempsey*, by Harold J. McAuliffe, are the three articles in the April number of the *Missouri Historical Review*. *Western Life and Western Books*, by J. Christian Bay; *The James Boys and Missouri Politics*, by William A. Settle, Jr.; *Dr. Isidor Loeb*, by Allen McReynolds; *Missouri—Heir of Southern Tradition and Individuality*, by Floyd C. Shoemaker; and *Lost Channels*, by Sue Hetherington, are contributions in the July issue. This number also includes the legend as to how and when Samuel L. Clemens adopted the pseudonym of "Mark Twain" and a story of Charles Dickens in St. Louis.

The 1942 Spring number of the *Michigan History Magazine* contains the following articles and papers: *Michigan's Civil War West Pointers*, by George T. Ness, Jr.; *So You're Going to Mackinac*, by Eleanor Gallagher; *Emerson in Michigan and the Northwest*, by Russel B. Nye; *Michigan's Lumber-Jacks*, by John I. Bellaire; *Michigan's Cut-Over 'Canaan'*, by Leo Alilunas; *In Old Detroit (1831-1836)*, by Sidney Glazer; *The Woman Pioneer of the Eighteen Forties*, by Beth Williams; and *Sources For the History of Wayne County in the Burton Historical Collection*, by Louise Rau. *First American Fourth of July in Michigan*, by Louise Rau; *History of 4-H Club Work in Michigan*, by A. G. Kettunen; *Early Settlement in Eastern Michigan*, by George B. Catlin; *The Social and Economic Effects of Lumbering on Michigan, 1835-1890*, by Ormond S. Danford; *A Pioneer Gospel Ranger of the Michigan Wilderness*, by Coe Hayne; and *The Sanitary Reform Movement in Michigan*, by Dr. Earl E. Kleinschmidt, are articles and papers in the Summer number.

IOWANA

How Does the Federal Aid Bill Fit into the Iowa Picture? by Arthur C. Deamer, is one of the articles in *Midland Schools* for September.

Masonry In a National Crisis, by Charles Grahl, is one of the articles in the *Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of Iowa A. F. & A. M.*, for June, 1942.

Marcus Lee Hansen Historian of Immigration, by C. Frederick

Hansen, has been reprinted in pamphlet form from *Common Ground*, Summer, 1942.

The Why of Cedar Rapids, an address delivered before the Old Timers' Club of the Cedar Rapids Y. M. C. A. on April 24, 1942, has been published in pamphlet form.

Reverend John D. Clinton, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Iowa Falls, has been running a series of "Scenic City Sermonettes" in the *Iowa Falls Citizen*.

Prices of Farm Products in Iowa, 1851-1940, by Norman V. Strand, is printed as Research Bulletin 303 in the series issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

German Presbyterianism in the Upper Mississippi Valley, by H. Clifford Fox, has been lithoprinted and issued in booklet form. In the story of this religious group there is much material concerning the religious history of Iowa.

A continuation of *Medical History of Webster County*, by Dr. William W. Bowen, is one of the articles in *The Journal of the Iowa State Medical Society* for July. The August number contains *History of Medicine in Johnson County*, by Dr. George C. Albright, and the September number includes *Medical History of Floyd County*, by Dr. James B. Miner, Sr.

The story of Mareah Krantz Scholte, the second wife of the Reverend Henry P. Scholte, printed in the April, 1939, issue of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, has been reprinted in book form by the author, Mrs. Leonora R. Scholte, of Pella, whose husband was Henry Scholte, a son of the Reverend Scholte and Mareah Scholte. The title is *A Stranger in a Strange Land*.

Additional volumes of the county history series, prepared by the Iowa Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration and sponsored by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, include the volumes for Page, Woodbury, Dubuque, and Jackson counties. The individual volumes are sponsored by the county superintendents. The Iowa Writers' Program has also issued a

History of Highland Park Post No. 374, Des Moines, Iowa Department of the American Legion, sponsored by that Post.

A Century with Iowa Jewry, by Jack Wolfe, was printed in 1941 by the Iowa Printing and Supply Company of Des Moines. The volume is in three parts. Part one contains a survey of the activities of Jews in Iowa up to the close of the Civil War. The second section tells the story of Jewish residents and Jewish culture in Des Moines, while part three deals with the life of Jewish residents in Iowa cities such as Davenport, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Sioux City and Council Bluffs, and in smaller Iowa communities.

The Story of Sioux County, compiled by Charles L. Dyke, associate editor of the *Sioux County Capital*, has been published recently in an attractive volume of 640 pages. Two-thirds of the book contains the story of the settlement and development of Sioux County, related by Mr. Dyke who grew up on a farm near Hospers and took part in many of the events. There are also special articles written by various persons, and "The Sioux County Family Album" which contains pictures of some five hundred residents of Sioux County.

SOME RECENT HISTORICAL ITEMS IN IOWA NEWSPAPERS

Henry Clay Work, composer of "Grandfather's Clock", "Marching Through Georgia", and other songs, once lived in Sioux City, in the *Sioux City Journal*, February 8, 1942.

Brown's Ferry on the Cedar River, in the *West Liberty Index*, February 12, 1942.

Early phases of pioneer transportation, in the *Montezuma Republican*, February 12, 1942.

First county highway laid out in Marshall County in 1852, in the *Marshalltown Times-Republican*, February 12, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Grant Wood, artist, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, February 13, 1942.

Some early mills uncovered in Jasper County Court files, in the *Newton News*, February 20, 1942.

Death of John W. Hancher, former president of Iowa Wesleyan College, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, February 21, 1942.

Judge M. F. Edwards, jurist and former Representative, dies at Waterloo, in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, and the *Waterloo Courier*, February 24, 1942.

McGregor museum receives file of *Clayton County Herald* for 1856-57, in the *Waukon Republican-Standard*, February 25, and the *Marcus News*, March 12, 1942.

Sketch of the life of La Monte Cowles, leading Burlington citizen, and former Senator of Iowa, in the *Burlington Hawkeye* and the *Des Moines Register*, February 25, 1942.

Reminiscences of McGregor and surrounding area, in the *McGregor North Iowa Times*, February 26, March 5, 12, 1942.

Abastina St. Leger Eberle, sculptor, was native of Webster City, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, February 28, and the *Waterloo Courier*, March 1, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Christian Grell, former State Representative from Scott County, in the *Davenport Democrat*, March 6, 1942.

Sketch of the career of George C. Scott, United States judge of the northern district of Iowa, in the *Sioux City Journal*, March 8, 1942.

Plans for centennial of Tipton Consolidated School recalls history of education in Tipton, in the *Davenport Democrat*, March 8, 1942.

Illustrious Iowans — James Harlan, William B. Allison, Leslie M. Shaw, Jonathan P. Dolliver, Robert G. Cousins, William P. Hepburn, George D. Perkins, A. B. Cummins, and George E. Roberts, by William R. Boyd, in the *Sioux City Journal*, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, 10, 1942.

Fugitive slaves and the Coalport Guards in Jefferson County, in the *Mediapolis New Era News*, March 10, 1942.

Death of District Court Judge Hugh P. Stuart, in the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, March 10, 1942.

Pioneer "Horse-Thief" building still stands in Winchester, Van Buren County, by M. Coverdell, in the *Elliott Graphic*, March 12, 1942.

Old Des Moines County Historical Society loans use of home to United Service Organization, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, March 12, 1942.

Reminiscences of C. W. Williams and race-track days at Independence, by Ray A. Cook, in the *Independence Bulletin-Journal*, March 12, 1942.

The history of Burr Oak on the bank of Silver Creek, by Burr F. Griswold, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, April 15, 1942.

Sketch of the career of Roy F. Hendrickson, Iowa farm boy, now marketing administrator of the Department of Agriculture, by Ovid A. Martin, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, March 15, 1942.

Eulogy for Leroy D. Brandon, former Representative in Congress, in the *Boone News-Republican*, March 16, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Levi O. Leonard, engineer and railroad historian, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, March 16, and the *Des Moines Register*, March 17, 1942.

Contents of the cornerstone of the Youngerman Building in Des Moines, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, March 17, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Herbert E. Taylor, prominent in judicial, political, and civic affairs of northeastern Iowa, in the *Decorah Public Opinion* and the *Elkader Register*, March 18, 1942.

Death of Frank P. Clarkson, journalist, son of Richard P. Clarkson, in the *Sioux City Journal*, March 18, 1942.

Photograph album of the old Tipton Union School of 1887 reveals school history, in the *Tipton Advertiser*, March 19, 1942.

Five La Porte City men have served in the Iowa legislature, in the *La Porte City Progress-Review*, March 19, 1942.

"Dad" Parrott prints paper to show Iowa's greatness, in the *Waterloo Courier*, *Des Moines Register*, and the *Davenport Democrat*, March 22, 1942.

Death of Charles W. Chapman, lumberman and civic leader of Waterloo, in the *Waterloo Courier*, March 24, and the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, March 25, 1942.

The story of Militia Hollow, by LeRoy Boyd, in the *Hamburg Reporter*, March 26, 1942.

Frank P. Clarkson, once of the *Des Moines Register*, by Harvey Ingham, in the *Des Moines Register*, March 28, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Lieutenant Colonel Herbert G. Higbee, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, March 30, 1942.

Film, "Rainbow Recollections", shows actual scenes of Iowa's 168th Infantry during World War I, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, April 1, 1942.

Four Iowans from Allamakee County saw service in Filipino Insurrection forty-three years ago, in the *Waukon Democrat*, April 2, 1942.

Sketch of the life of James Cutler Milliman, prominent in State and local affairs, in the *Logan Herald*, April 2, 1942.

Four brothers recall experience in France under General Douglas MacArthur in 1918, in the *Humboldt Republican*, April 3, 1942.

Rock Island Railroad asks removal of Le Claire home, in the *Davenport Democrat*, April 3, 5, 1942.

Mayor John MacVicar gets gavel from "oldest tree in Iowa", in the *Des Moines Tribune*, April 7, 1942.

Letter of J. I. Case written from Prairie La Porte, 1852, in the *Arlington News*, April 9, 1942.

Old Rorer home used for United Service Organization headquarters, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, April 9, May 26, 1942.

Relics tell struggle of Iowa's pioneers, by Louis Cook, Jr., in the *Des Moines Register*, April 9, 1942.

Plymouth, Cerro Gordo County, has old ghost road, in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, April 11, 1942.

Some incidents in the life of Grant Wood, by Dorothy Dougherty, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 12, 1942.

One hundred years of education in Tipton is the story of fight for free schools throughout Iowa, by Jack Illian, in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, April 12, 1942.

James Armstrong recalls former battles in Philippine Islands, by Newton Wallace, in the *Denison Review*, April 16, 1942.

Dedication of the Hardin County courthouse at Eldora, in the *Eldora Herald-Ledger*, April 16, 1942.

Death of John Clark Pryor, once a soldier in the Confederate army, in the *Burlington Hawkeye*, April 17, 1942.

Captain Jerome Short, pioneer river man, is dead, in the *Clinton Herald*, April 18, 1942.

Sioux City has coin exhibit, by Clyde M'Neil, in the *Sioux City Journal*, April 19, 1942.

Personal reminiscences of Col. D. B. Henderson, in the *Sheldon Mail*, April 22, 1942.

Experiences in Hamilton County in 1883 are recalled by Mrs. D. W. Barkhuff, in the *Webster City Freeman-Journal*, April 23, 1942.

Methodism in McGregor celebrates its 90th year, by Mrs. W. A. Myers, in the *McGregor North Iowa Times*, April 23, 1942.

Death of Grant DeCorah, descendant of Chief Little Decorah, after whom town of Decorah was named, in the *Decorah Journal*, April 23, 1942.

The city hall of Garden Grove was once the Lady Amber Inn, by Idavee Crouse, in the *Leon Journal-Reporter*, April 23, 1942.

The old McIntire Mill, in the *Montezuma Republican*, April 23, May 7, 1942.

Henry Scholte Nollen, an editorial in the *Des Moines Tribune*, April 25, 1942.

Joe Borlang, "village smithy", by L. Dale Ahern, in the *Decorah Public Opinion*, April 29, 1942.

Webster City Freeman-Journal issues 85th anniversary edition, in the *Eagle Grove Eagle*, April 20, 1942.

Life story of Mrs. Sarah Welch Nossaman, taken from the *Pella Blade* of March 24, 1896, in the *Pella Chronicle*, April 30, 1942.

Marion Reel's story of Wayland, in the *Mount Pleasant News*, May 2, 1942.

John Koolbeck of Harlan, Iowa, heard Sherman say "War is hell", in the *Des Moines Register*, May 3, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Hubert A. Allen, a former resident of Independence, brigadier general, retired, who died on May 3rd, in the *Des Moines Register*, May 4, and the *Independence Conservative*, May 6, 1942.

Mrs. Hannah Porter of Davenport dies at the age of 101, in the *Davenport Democrat*, May 5, 1942.

Reminiscences of Dr. John F. Walter, in the *McGregor North Iowa Times*, May 7, 1942.

Experiences with early automobiles in Allamakee County, in the *Ossian Bee*, May 7, 1942.

Henry A. Wallace is hard working Vice President, by Peter Edson, in the *Sioux City Journal*, May 10, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Hubert Utterback, in the *Des Moines Register*, May 13, 1942.

Biographical sketch of Carlo Alberto Sperati, by J. A. Nelson, in the *Decorah Journal*, May 14, 1942.

World War II may help Iowa's pearl button industry, by Earl T. Rose, in the *West Union Union*, May 14, 1942.

Donna Reed is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Mullenger of Crawford County, in the *Denison Bulletin*, May 14, 1942.

How Crown Princess Juliana of The Netherlands visited Pella, in the *Pella Chronicle*, May 14, June 4, 1942.

Dr. George Washington Carver was educated in Iowa, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, May 16, 1942.

The pontoon bridge at McGregor, by Helen Goddard, in the *McGregor North Iowa Times*, May 21, 1942.

Seven-year-old girl was once apprenticed to learn housekeeping, in the *Shenandoah Sentinel*, May 22, 1942.

Old State road started in 1851, in the *Bloomfield Republican*, May 26, 1942.

When stage coaches came to Iowa City, in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, May 26, 1942.

The fairgrounds at Clinton, in the *Clinton Herald*, May 28, 1942.

When Grove City was a promising town, in the *Greenfield Free Press*, May 28, 1942.

Dale Hunter recalls when James Brothers visited Plymouth, in the *Le Mars Globe Post*, June 1, 1942.

History of St. Joseph's Church, Bellevue, in the *Bellevue Herald*, June 2, 4, 1942.

Story of the *Sanborn Pioneer*, by Mrs. Claribel H. McMillen, in the *O'Brien County (Primghar) Bell*, June 3, 1942.

Stories of Axtell, famous racehorse, in the *Des Moines Register*, June 4, 1942.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's comment on Iowa Wesleyan College, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, June 6, 1942.

Arlington cemetery is managed by an Iowan, in the *Des Moines Register*, June 8, 1942.

Sketch of the life of Glenn C. Haynes, in the *Des Moines Tribune*, June 6, the *Centerville Iowegian*, June 8, and the *Newton News*, June 10, 1942.

Records of the hanging of Hinton S. Hinkle in Appanoose County in 1856, in the *Centerville Iowegian*, June 9, 1942.

Early history of McGregor, by Logan Blizzard, in the *McGregor North Iowa Times*, June 11, 1942.

Building the Big Grove Ford, in the *Oakland Acorn*, June 11, 1942.

History of Maquoketa in "True Tallcorn Tales" series, in the *Greenfield Free Press*, June 11, 1942.

Activities of the Kelley Brothers orchestra, in the *Osage Press*, June 11, 1942.

How a gold rush was started, by Charles Allen Crane, in the *Des Moines Register*, June 14, 1942.

The "Air Line Railroad" in Louisa County, by M. Coverdell, in the *Mediapolis New Era News*, June 16, 1942.

Iowa's oldest Civil War veteran, in the *Indianola Tribune*, June 17, 1942.

History of the Brainard family, in the *Postville Herald*, June 17, 1942.

Old Pymosa was named for Indian chief, in the *Greenfield Free Press*, June 18, 1942.

Many Civil War army camps in Iowa, in the *Marengo Pioneer-Republican*, June 18, 1942.

Early laws and courts of Tama County, by Mrs. William S. Gallagher, in the *Toledo Chronicle*, June 18, 1942.

Ralph B. Dennis was former Traer boy, in the *Traer Star-Clipper*, June 19, 1942.

Early manufacturing at Fairfield, in the *Fairfield Ledger*, June 19, 1942.

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Michigan Historical Commission has published a booklet concerning the Michigan State flag and the rules for its use.

The Western Reserve Historical Society celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary at a garden party at Cleveland on June 24, 1942.

The Ohio War History Commission began the issue of a news bulletin on July 15, 1942. The title is *Communikay*. The second number is dated August 5th.

Indiana University has acquired the extensive collection of Lincoln material which was assembled over many years by Joseph B. Oakleaf who died in 1930. The collection includes some eight thousand volumes as well as pictures, plaques, letters, etc.

The closing talk of a series sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society for 1941-1942 was given at Indianapolis on May 28th, by Judge Curtis G. Shake. His subject was "Beginnings of Cultural Movements in Vincennes", dealing largely with schools and educational work.

The Missouri State Historical Society has recently acquired the J. Christian Bay collection of Western Americana. The books are to be kept in a specially furnished room in the building occupied by the Society. Dr. Bay is librarian of the John Crerar Library in Chicago.

The Minnesota War History Commission, appointed by Governor Stassen on May 18, 1942, as an agency of the Minnesota Office of Civilian Defense, has begun the collection of war records in Minnesota. Its activities are to be reported in a special section of *Minnesota History*.

The 1942 summer tour and convention of the Minnesota Historical Society was confined to a program at Fort Snelling on June 14, 1942. Professor Lester B. Shippee, President of the Society,

presided. Major General F. E. Uhl, commander of the Seventh Corps Area, gave a brief address. The main address was presented by Brigadier General Harold E. Wood of the Minnesota State Guard who spoke on "The Shape of Things to Come".

The sixty-eighth annual meeting of the Michigan State Historical Society was held at Bay City on June 19-20, 1942. The central theme was the pine lumber industry in that part of Michigan. Captain J. K. Esler, U. S. Navy, Ret., was the principal speaker at the annual dinner and his subject was "What Is the Great Lakes Region Contributing Toward the War Effort?" Another speaker was Earl C. Beck, author of *Songs of the Michigan Lumberjack*. The second day was devoted to visiting the historic sites.

IOWA

An Independence Day pageant was given at Le Mars on July 4 and 5, 1942. The title of the production was "Plymouth County Plays Her Part".

A marker, provided by Albert Reed, 92 years old and a former resident of Irvington, has been erected a short distance east of the town, to mark the site of the Irvington town hall.

Morris Sanford of Cedar Rapids was the speaker at the Buchanan County Historical Society meeting on June 5, 1942. His subject was Rear Admiral Harry Yarnell, a native of Buchanan County.

Edward J. Breen of Fort Dodge was the speaker at the old settlers' picnic sponsored by the historical societies of Webster and Hamilton counties, and held at Bells Mill on August 2, 1942.

The Wayne County Historical Society was organized on August 7, 1942. Roy Grimes was elected president and Lola Cherry is the secretary. Charter members to the number of fifty-five were enrolled.

The Sac County Historical Society reported 225 charter members at its meeting held at Sac City on July 30, 1942. The society is collecting sketches of families living in Sac County previous to 1900.

The Fayette County Centennial Association has received a large show case from the Central States Power and Light Company. The case will be moved to a room in the courthouse at West Union where it will be used to display historical records.

The Woodbury County Pioneer Club at its meeting at Sioux City, on May 23, 1942, heard G. E. Adams tell of Indian massacres. On June 27th, A. A. Smith spoke on "Early Days in Southeastern Iowa", and on August 22nd, Mrs. Ralph A. Henderson discussed "Historical Collections in the Public Museum".

The directors of the Guthrie County Historical Society, at a meeting held at Panora on May 24, 1942, decided to suspend activities during the war emergency, but urged that members of the society collect and preserve historical material and that individual members write histories of organizations and activities in which they are interested.

The third annual meeting of the Pocahontas County Historical Society was held at Pocahontas on August 20, 1942. The fourth old settlers' picnic was held at the same time. The program of speeches included "Early History of Rolfe", by Frank MacVey, a pioneer talk, by Mrs. Jennie Hogan, "Early History of Pocahontas", by Frank Hronek, and "Early History of Laurens", by Fred Hawley.

The sixth annual reunion and patriotic rally sponsored by the Ringgold County Historical Society was held at Mount Ayr on July 16, 1942. Homer L. Calkin, Clearfield, was reelected president and Vera F. Dickens secretary. The main speech on the program was "The State Historical Society of Iowa", by Walter H. Beall of West Union, one of the Curators of the Society. His address was published in the *Mount Ayr Record-News*, July 23, and the *Ringgold County Bulletin* for August, 1942.

The State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines is collecting the records of the Grand Army of the Republic and now has records of some two hundred posts. Only two of the more than five hundred units are still active. Miss Amy Noll, State secretary of the G. A. R., is in charge of this collection. E. P. Taylor, com-

mander of the post at Fairfield, was elected Commander of the Iowa Department in June, 1941.

At the annual meeting of the Scott County Pioneer Association on August 26, 1942, Miss Millicent Spencer of Rock Island presented to the organization a miniature pioneer village which she planned as a memorial to her family. She also presented a gold headed cane on which the names of the presidents will be inscribed. Roswell H. Spencer was the first white man to own land in Scott County and the founder of Pleasant Valley.

State Center celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary on August 26, 1942. Governor George A. Wilson was the principal speaker. Other speakers, former residents of State Center, were State Senator B. C. Whitehill of Marshalltown, Harley H. Stipp of Des Moines, Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's livestock bureau, and Guy L. Noble, general secretary of the national committee for boys and girls clubs. Announcement was made that George and Ed Schilling, members of a pioneer family, had given the town \$1500 to purchase and equip an athletic field to be known as the "Schilling Memorial Field".

The Tama County Historical Society sponsored an old settlers' picnic at Oak Park, Tama County, on June 14, 1942. Miss Ethyl E. Martin, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, gave a talk on historical work, Mrs. Chas. Townsend gave "Tall Tales of Early Tama County", Mr. Kenneth E. Colton of the State Department of History and Archives talked on the preservation of historical material, and Chief Young Bear, from the Indian reservation, told of the early history of the Sac and Fox Indians. The Tama County Society now has a large collection of relics which are housed in a room in the courthouse at Toledo. A report late in August listed the membership at 500.

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

The war clipping file of the State Historical Society now contains over 82,000 items. These are filed under twenty-six headings, among which are aviation, civilian defense, war bonds, editorials, farming

and food production, nutrition, the A. E. F., casualties, enlistments and commissions, life and activities in camps, post war plans, prisoners, religion and morale, selective service, war industries, and the women's army.

The State Historical Society of Iowa is collecting a set of microfilm reproductions of newspapers published in Iowa before 1846. Files in Burlington, Davenport, and Muscatine have already been copied and it is hoped that with the coöperation of local public libraries and the Library of Congress all available issues of Iowa papers of this period may be collected in microfilm. During these early years the principal newspapers were published at Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Iowa City.

The following persons have recently been elected to membership in the Society: Mrs. M. S. Jordan, Clinton, Iowa; Rev. M. R. Talley, Greenfield, Iowa; Miss Erma L. Bonds, Keosauqua, Iowa; Miss Louise Cotnam, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Leon E. Hickman, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Miss Viola E. Knoche, Waterloo, Iowa; Mr. Kenneth P. Moore, Traer, Iowa; Mr. Willis P. Porter, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. William J. Seymour, Hinton, Iowa; Mr. John R. Wallis, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Harry J. Wenger, Wellman, Iowa; Miss Robina Wilson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. J. W. Young, Traer, Iowa; Dr. P. B. Cleaves, Cherokee, Iowa; Miss Odessa Farley, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Burton Prugh, Burlington, Iowa; and Mrs. George F. Stratton, Washta, Iowa.

The following persons have been enrolled as life members of the Society: Mr. E. D. Bradley, Muscatine, Iowa; Dr. George Braunschlich, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. George H. Breidert, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. W. H. Brenton, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Geo. R. Burden, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Howard H. Cherry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. Warren N. Churchill, Burlington, Iowa; Mr. L. E. Davisson, Nevada, Iowa; Dr. F. W. Dean, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. W. C. Eastland, Clinton, Iowa; Mrs. E. P. Eastman, Burlington, Iowa; Mrs. M. L. Evans, Emerson, Iowa; Dr. A. G. Felter, Van Meter, Iowa; Mrs. Alice Glasgow, Mechanicsville, Iowa; Mr. F. M. Goddard, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. B. A. Gronstal, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr.

Guy H. Hall, Dallas Center, Iowa; Dr. Gordon F. Harkness, Davenport, Iowa; Miss Martha H. Hemenway, Lansing, Iowa; Mrs. M. L. Holm, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. H. I. Jennings, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. R. E. Jones, Williamsburg, Iowa; Rev. Wm. H. Knotts, Lehigh, Iowa; Mr. C. F. Littell, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; Rt. Rev. Harry S. Longley, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. F. H. Luthe, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Roy A. McGuire, Fairfield, Iowa; Mr. L. J. Maresh, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mr. William B. Martin, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Lee Nagle, Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. F. C. Okey, Corning, Iowa; Mr. Harold D. Peterson, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Mr. J. Carl Pryor, Burlington, Iowa; Miss Iola B. Quigley, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Joseph R. Reed, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. J. J. Roshek, Dubuque, Iowa; Miss Agnes Samuelson, Des Moines, Iowa; Dr. Lee E. Shafer, Davenport, Iowa; Mr. W. A. Smith, Dubuque, Iowa; Mr. Reece Stuart, Jr., Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Otha D. Wearin, Hastings, Iowa; Rev. W. A. Winterstein, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Velma Pearse Yokom, Marshalltown, Iowa; Dr. C. H. Graening, Waverly, Iowa; and Mr. H. S. Rittenhouse, Monona, Iowa.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Dan W. Turner of Corning, former Governor of Iowa, is now chief of the Prison Industries War Production Board in Washington, D. C.

Old settlers of Palo Alto and Emmet counties held their annual reunion at High Lake on August 30, 1942. Speakers included Judge N. J. Lee and O. N. Refsell of Estherville and Dwight McCarty of Emmetsburg.

The Harrison County Old Settlers' Association held its annual meeting and picnic at Magnolia on August 20, 1942. W. L. Yeaman, of Logan, was elected president and Miss Alice Lenz, of Magnolia, was chosen secretary.

The old settlers of Wayne County held their annual picnic at Corydon on August 8, 1942. Congressman Karl M. LeCompte was the principal speaker. A. O. Hunter was reelected president and G. R. West was named secretary.

Early settlers of Madison and Warren counties held their annual reunion at St. Charles on August 13, 1942. Wm. S. Beardsley of New Virginia was the principal speaker. Charles Kinnaird was chosen president and Dr. H. A. Mueller of St. Charles was named secretary.

Adair County old settlers held their annual picnic at Greenfield on June 14, 1942. C. J. Eatinger, of Orient, was chosen president, and Mrs. C. F. Hulbert of Fontanelle, secretary. S. Fleming, Mrs. L. L. Linn, C. F. Hulbert, and Eli Sullivan gave pioneer reminiscences.

Julia A. Robinson, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission from 1913 to 1938, died at Ontario, California, on May 19, 1942. She was born in Dubuque and began her library work there. Later she attended the Wisconsin Library School, and served as secretary

of the North Dakota Library Commission and the Kentucky Library Commission before taking up her work in Iowa.

The Dickinson County Old Settlers' Association holds its annual picnic at Gull Point Park on August 20, 1942. W. Hiram Wadleigh spoke on "Last Twenty Years of the 19th Century", C. F. Beers on "Pioneer Days in Milford", and Lester Gillette on "Before and Since 1900". Mr. Wadleigh was elected chairman for the ensuing year and Mrs. Rose Gregory of Lake Park was chosen secretary.

Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg, one of the well-known historians of the Middle West, and for many years a leader in research for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, died at Madison on July 11, 1942. Dr. Kellogg was best known for her work in the field of early Wisconsin history and in the history of the Old Northwest. Among her books are *The French Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest* and *The British Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest*. She also performed valuable work in the editing of source material. In 1930 Dr. Kellogg was elected President of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the only woman who has held that office to date.

CONTRIBUTORS

JOSEPH GEORGE DUNCAN. Born at Lineville, Iowa, March 13, 1912. Graduated from Lineville High School, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Journalism, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 1934, graduate work in Department of History, Michigan State College. Member of Sigma Delta Chi, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the State Historical Society of Iowa, the State Historical Society of Missouri, the Michigan State Historical Society, and the Institute of American Genealogy. Department of Journalism and Publications, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

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